



# SPEECHES & MESSAGES

OF HIS HIGHNESS

SIR BALA RAMA VARMA, G. C. I. E., D. LITT.

MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE

With a Foreword by Sachivottama  
SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR, K. C. I. E.

COMPILED AND EDITED  
BY G. P. SEKHAR

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## PREFACE

The Speeches and Messages of His Highness the Maharaja, presented in this volume, date from the occasion of His Highness' assumption of ruling powers to the close of the year 1937. These pronouncements are of absorbing interest to all students of Indian Renaissance as they not only reveal in a striking manner the unique personality of a great Ruler — one of the greatest of modern times — but also indicate the lofty ideals he has set before him in the discharge of his sovereign duties.

I wish here to express my deep indebtedness to His Highness' Government for permission to compile and edit this volume. I am profoundly grateful to Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. I. E. for the Foreword he has kindly contributed to this

collection. I am deeply thankful to Mr. C. P. Skrine, O. B. E., I. C. S., Resident for the Madras States, for his kind permission to include in the Appendix the speech he delivered at the State Banquet given on the occasion of His Highness' twenty-sixth birthday.

I am also deeply indebted to Mr. N. Krishnamurti, F. R. Hist. S., Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja, for the very valuable help I have received at his hands in the compilation of this volume. My thanks are also due to Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, Managing Proprietor, *The Trivandrum Daily News*, Mr. Thomas George, Editor, *The Western Star*, and Mr. K. Velu Pillai, Editor, *The Bharata Kesari*, for placing the files of their respective newspapers unreservedly at my disposal for frequent reference.

G. P. SEKHAR

## FOREWORD

Mr. G. P. Sekhar has to be congratulated on the idea of collecting in a convenient and accessible form the various pronouncements made by His Highness Sri Chittira Tirunal Maharajah from the time of his Investiture up to this date.

The variety of topics dealt with and the multiplicity of interests manifested are truly remarkable; but perhaps even more noteworthy is the fundamental anxiety manifested by His Highness to create economic prosperity and equality of social, cultural and religious opportunities amongst all his subjects numbering over five millions. In this country which, under His Highness' guidance, has made history in more directions than one, there is no greater and more far-seeing patriot than His Highness nor are there many Rulers who have so

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utterly dedicated themselves to the task of advancing the welfare and prestige of the State.

This publication is bound to be a source of inspiration and stimulus to those who desire to labour in the directions in which His Highness has given such a wise and courageous lead.

C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR

*Bhaktivilas, Trivandrum, }*  
*24th December 1937. }*

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# SPEECHES & MESSAGES

OF HIS HIGHNESS

THE MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE

## 1. AT THE INVESTITURE DURBAR

*On the occasion of His Highness the Maharaja's Investiture with ruling powers, His Highness made the following reply to the speech delivered by Lt. Col. H. R. N. Pritchard, Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States, at the Durbar Hall on the 6th of November, 1931:*

Col. Pritchard, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two centuries and a half ago the British first settled in this land, and in the troublous times of the Madura and Tinnevelly campaigns and the wars with Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan, the friendship between Travancore and the

Paramount Power was cemented by steadfast mutual adherence and mutual service, and as early as 1795 it was possible for the Honourable The East India Company to refer to their "ancient friendship" with the Raja. The undertaking then given by the East India Company not to impede in any wise the course of administration of the Raja's Government and to defend him against external enemies was a further proof of that friendship, and it is a matter for pride and rejoicing that Travancore can claim credit for equal fidelity to its obligations. Peace and amity have been the watch-words and the guiding principles of the mutual relations of the Paramount Power and the State, and it may well be asserted that our interests have throughout been identical.

On this solemn occasion when I, as a descendant and representative of the ancient Chera dynasty and in accordance with the customs and usages of my country, assume the Government of the State after recognition and investiture by the Viceroy, I am proud to recall the historic basis and the uninterrupted

continuity of the ties that bind this country and its Ruler to His Majesty the King-Emperor and his representatives. These ties have been rendered all the closer in my case on account of the discerning sympathy and the personal friendship and guidance which have been extended to me by His Excellency the present Viceroy of India to whom I owe a special debt of gratitude. Will you be good enough to transmit to His Excellency and the Countess of Willingdon my profound feelings of esteem and respect?

You have been good enough in the speech to which I have listened with interest and legitimate pride, to advert to the steady progress which my State has been able to make. That progress has been due to the zealous and untiring efforts of my predecessors and to the enlightened solicitude of my aunt, the Maharani Regent, for the interests of Travancore to which you have referred. I now take up the reins of a settled and well-ordered Government, but I do so not in a spirit of vain-glory or self-satisfaction but full of an

abiding sense of the tremendous responsibility entailed by this magnificent heritage.

You have rightly referred to certain aspects of the financial position of the State. Satisfactory as it is from certain points of view and lucky as the State has been to escape from the more calamitous effects of the grave crisis which is now world-wide in character and range, the position is still fraught with anxiety, and I wish to assure you, and through you His Excellency the Viceroy, that it will be my constant aim to follow the example of freedom from ostentation and carefulness in husbanding our resources which, I venture to say, have been the dominant principles of the Rulers of Travancore.

You have also referred to the unique position attained by the State in the matter of education and other nation-building activities, administrative and legislative. Need I say that it will be my earnest and constant endeavour to assist in the further development of the State on the same lines and to enable it to take its place in the vanguard of progress?

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Situated as it is in the southernmost corner of India and isolated in many respects from the rest of the sub-continent, Travancore, in spite of its all-round progress, its population of five millions, its revenue of nearly two and a half crores and its achievements and aspirations, is not so well-known in India and in England as one would legitimately expect. Is it an unreasonable demand to ask that a State, exceeded in population only by Hyderabad and Mysore, should have its position more definitely and unequivocally recognised?

I am greatly indebted to you for the kindly sentiments which have pervaded your speech, and I feel confident that my relations with you as His Excellency the Viceroy's representative and as the channel of communication with the Government of India, will ever be of the same friendly and cordial character as in the past.

There are many and serious problems confronting India at the present moment, and the future inter-relations of British India and the Indian States are under review. Far-reaching

political and constitutional changes are being debated and deliberated upon, and in view to these developments I have, after consultation with His Excellency the Viceroy and yourself, decided to avail myself of the services of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who is a trusted friend of my family, as my Legal and Constitutional Adviser.

Let me take this occasion to convey my most cordial and sincere thanks to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore for the great hospitality extended to me by him personally and for the unfailing and friendly assistance afforded by His Highness and the officers of his administration in the course of my training in his State. My thanks are also due to the Government of Madras for the facilities provided to me for studying the British system of administration.

May I also avail myself of this opportunity to thank Mr. Dodwell whose presence here to-day I am very glad to note? My most cordial thanks are due to Mr. Dutt for his unremitting and valuable services as my

Administrative Tutor.

You have been pleased to advert to the zeal displayed by me in making myself familiar with my subjects and their wants and the working of the various departments in the State. This work has been to me not a mere matter of routine but an unalloyed pleasure; and it is my hope that I shall be enabled, by God's grace, to earn the affection and esteem of all communities and classes amongst my people whose advancement in every department of life will be my perpetual pre-occupation and my sole aim. It is, as you have truly said, a very great trust which has been transmitted to me, and I realise that that trust will not be well discharged except to the extent that I am able to promote the peace, contentment and prosperity of my subjects. It is a consolation and a great privilege that in my task I shall have the inestimable advantage of the watchful solicitude and the unparalleled devotion of my mother to whom I owe more than I can ever express in words.

It only remains for me to announce that

in commemoration of this occasion I have resolved to pay out of my private funds a sum of one lakh of Rupees to serve as initial capital for a Travancore Land Mortgage Bank and another sum of half a lakh of Rupees for starting a home for the destitute and the infirm. It is further my intention to place the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly on a statutory basis with enlarged powers and functions, and a proclamation will shortly be issued for carrying out that intention.

May the great Ruler of human destinies grant me the strength of mind, the wisdom and the vision to fulfil those great duties and obligations that have devolved upon me!

## 2. REPLY TO THE JOINT ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

*His Highness the Maharaja made the following reply to an Address presented to him by the Presidents and Members of the Municipal Councils of the State on the Investiture Day:*

Gentlemen,

Convinced as I am that local and civic self-government is the foundation of all political progress and welfare, it gives me great pleasure to meet the Presidents and Members of the Municipal Councils in the State of Travancore.

Yours is indeed a great task, namely, to ameliorate the conditions and improve the amenities of the various towns of which you are the citizens and accredited representatives, and to do so in co-operation with your fellow-citizens and with the support of the Government of the State. It is needless for

me to point out that much has to be achieved in the direction of making the Municipalities real foci and centres of civic endeavour in all directions, in public health and sanitary progress, in education and in the beautification of the towns.

It is a matter for satisfaction that all the Municipal Bodies in Travancore have come together on this occasion, and I hope that in future you will often meet to compare notes and advance your common interests. I assure you that your welfare and progress will be my personal care and that I shall watch with anxious interest your development on sound lines.

Let me, in conclusion, thank you for the sentiments of loyalty and affection which are contained in your Address.

### 3. AT THE SCOUT RALLY, 1931

*The Travancore Boy Scouts presented an Address to His Highness the Chief Scout at the Scout Rally on the 7th of November 1931, and to this His Highness made the following reply :*

Mr. Chatfield, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I desire to express my sincere thanks to you, the State Commissioner, and the assembled Scouts for your birthday greetings and the expression of your general goodwill and loyalty.

It is a matter for sincere gratification to me that I am associated with the Travancore Boy Scout Organisation as its Chief Scout and that my family has been able to contribute a Cub and a Girl Guide to the Movement.

I do not propose on this occasion to dilate upon the value and the significance of the ideas underlying the Boy Scout and the Girl Guide Organisations. Loyalty to God,

loyalty to leaders, discipline, self-help and the constant desire and obligation of doing a daily good turn to one's neighbours are its glorious ideals. A clean, healthy out-door life uncommitted to any political or class shibboleths is its watch-word, and the true Scout does not passively accept dogmas or doctrines, but learns things for himself, and his whole life is a constant dedication to the interests of society. No finer training can be conceived of, and especially in the conditions of this country no more unifying agency can be imagined.

It is a matter for great rejoicing that scouting in Travancore has gone on from strength to strength until the total number of members of the organisation is nearly 3000; but I shall not be content, and I am sure you will not be content, unless this number is multiplied not only tenfold but a hundredfold, and until every eligible young man and young woman is enrolled in the organisation and is filled with its spirit.

As you justly observe, however, the

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Movement in our State is yet in its infant stage, and for the time being may require and rightly demand assistance from the State in furtherance of its activities. But I am sure you and the other members of the Scout Organisation will be the first to recognise that the Scout Movement is, and should be, not merely a State-aided enterprise, but a genuinely spontaneous, self-supporting and popular movement of which educational institutions of the land will only be one of the many sources of recruitment. I am looking forward especially to the speedy and healthy growth of a well-organised Rover Movement whose advantages are not easy to over-estimate. From your Address I realise that you are quite alive to these aspects of the matter and are taking steps to popularise the organisation.

I agree with you as to the necessity for suitable accommodation and hope it will be possible for you soon to be housed in your own building. As an earnest of my goodwill towards the Movement, I have great pleasure in contributing a sum of Rs. 1000 towards a

building fund from my Privy purse.

This is not the occasion to speak of political or State matters, but what can be a more cementing factor than this international brotherhood whose ideals are unity and service?

Let me wish God-speed, good scouting and all prosperity to the Movement.

#### 4. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF TRAVANCORE

*His Highness made the following reply to an Address presented to him at Sri Chitranagar on the 9th of November, 1931 by representatives of the people of Travancore :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do not use the language of convention when I assure you that I am not only grateful but deeply touched by the widespread and spontaneous expressions of loyalty, goodwill and affection of which I have been the recipient from all communities and classes in my State — sentiments which, I know, are traditionally characteristic of Travancore.

The occasion which has prompted your address to me marks the assumption by me of the Government of an important, enlightened and progressive country; but I wish to assure

you that my feelings are not merely those of pride on having been called upon to fill the position occupied by my illustrious predecessors. I realise vividly and fully the responsibilities and the obligations that have devolved upon me, and it will be my earnest endeavour with the help of Providence to do all that lies in my power to increase the happiness and promote the welfare of the people of the State and fulfil their legitimate aspirations.

In many ways our country is fortunate and nature has been kind to us, but even we have not escaped from the general effects of the economic depression that has characterised the last few years. Each one of us from the highest to the lowest has to shoulder the burden, and I am confident that I shall have your unstinted co-operation in the effort to meet the crisis which, I hope, is temporary; only thus can our financial and economic position be soon rehabilitated. You have spoken in feeling terms of my training and upbringing. I have had many opportunities to observe the working of the system of

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administration in British India as well as in a great and progressive Indian State, and it is my hope that experience so gained may be dedicated to the service of my land.

You have very rightly adverted to the workings of the time spirit and the new ideas that are moulding the destinies of India. Conserving what is best in the old traditions of our country, it will be my attempt to enable the State of Travancore to take its proper and legitimate place in the future constitution of India whatever may be its ultimate form. I shall welcome and encourage the association of my people with me in the tasks of the future and shall be unsparing in my efforts to maintain the great traditions of well-ordered and progressive administration that have been firmly established in Travancore by its successive Rulers.

## 5. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE COLLEGE STUDENTS.

*An Address was presented to His Highness at Kaudiar Palace on the 9th of November 1931 by representatives of the College Students of the State, and to this His Highness gave the following reply :*

It gives me genuine pleasure to be among the students and young men of my country and to receive those expressions of enthusiastic welcome and fervent loyalty which have been embodied in the Address that has been presented to me. Having just emerged from the stage of formal studentship, I yet realise that all of us need to be students throughout our lives in order adequately to fulfil the tasks that are ahead of us. You have rightly referred to the function and mission of youth, and knowing that the youth of every State and country are the makers of its future, need I

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say that I am extremely gratified to note that you are determined to afford me all possible support in the work that has now devolved upon me? I have, as you point out, had the advantage of seeing many parts of our great and historic land of India and met many of its leaders. The training that I have received and the experience that I have gained I shall, as in duty bound, consecrate to the service of my State, and it will be my constant aim to uphold and to enhance the greatness and prestige of the heritage to which I have now succeeded.

## 6. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE ATTINGAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

*The Municipal Council of Attingal presented a Civic Address to His Highness on the 23rd of January 1932 at Manomohanam Palace, Attingal, and to this His Highness gave the following reply :*

Gentlemen,

It is naturally a source of much gratification to me to receive a Civic Address from the Municipal Council of Attingal, a town and locality so intimately connected with the traditions and history of my family and enshrining so many historic memories.

Amidst the many stirring events that are taking place in the wider world, it must not be forgotten that the happiness of a people is to a very large extent dependent upon unobstrusive and patient work connected with

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the problems of local self-government. As you have justly pointed out, you enjoy many natural advantages and have, thanks to the diligence and far-sightedness of your Improvement Committee, been not unsuccessfully attempting to improve the amenities of the place on modern lines.

Let me thank you for your words of welcome and the kindly sentiments underlying them. I trust that, fortified by the best advice procurable and resolved, as I am, to carry on the traditions of my illustrious predecessors, modifying them, however, so as to be in consonance with the new and rapidly evolving conditions of the present day, the State of Travancore will take the place which is its due as a progressive and influential element in the Indian polity of the future.

I rejoice that the inhabitants of the State, in the midst of the present turmoil, have fully realised that subversive ideals and methods, translated into practice by direct action, are incompatible with all constitutional development, and it is my fervent hope that we, in

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Travancore, while cherishing modern ideas and principles, will ever endeavour to attain their fruition by ways and means which, though to the impatient may seem slow, are still sure and well-tested. I cannot let this opportunity pass without assuring you that I yield to no one in my determination that in every department of life and activity the people of Travancore should take an increasing share in the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship.

7. AT THE BANQUET GIVEN TO  
THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN STATES  
ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*At the State Banquet given to the Members of the Indian States Enquiry Committee on the 18th of February 1932, His Highness delivered the following speech welcoming them to the capital of the State :*

Mr. Davidson,\* My Lord Hastings, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me very great pleasure, so soon after my investiture with ruling powers, to be able to welcome the Chairman and the Members of the Indian States Committee to the capital of my State. I wish that your stay had not been so brief, and that you could have seen more of a part of India which is not without many special features and picturesque aspects. It would have given me special pleasure to have welcomed the ladies amongst

\* The Right Hon. J. C. C. Davidson, Chairman, Indian States Enquiry Committee.

us, and I need hardly say how very much I regret their unavoidable absence.

You have come here charged with most responsible and arduous duties which amount to nothing less than the working out of a financial scheme for the federation of the States and provinces of India—a problem, it must be admitted, as complicated as it must be of absorbing interest. The Chairman of the Committee is also entrusted by the letter of the Prime Minister with the task of advising on the position to be occupied by the various Indian States in the Federal Legislature of the future. I shall leave to my officers the task of placing the point of view of Travancore before you for ensuring those fair and equitable arrangements which, I feel firmly convinced, will be the outcome of the momentous deliberations now proceeding in India in which not only your Committee and the other Committees but also the Prime Minister and that great and trusted friend of India, Lord Willingdon, are collaborating. It is a matter for signal gratification that the members of the

Committee are persons who are not only supremely well-equipped for the work before them but have also many connections with India.

Situated as the Travancore State is in the southernmost corner of a vast sub-continent and characterised as its history has fortunately been by peace and quiet during the last century and more, the rest of the world has heard very little of us, and perhaps there is a great deal of truth in the adage, "Happy is the nation that has no history". Publicity, on the other hand, has its undoubted advantages, and it may not, therefore, be out of place to assert that, next to Hyderabad and Mysore, our State has the largest population among the Indian States, it being now over five millions; that our Legislative Council has a large non-official majority and very extensive powers; and that our High Court has a tradition of antiquity and high repute. Furthermore, from the time of the Greeks and the Romans there has been lively and uninterrupted commercial intercourse between the West and our State and

protection has been afforded not only to traders but to professors of all creeds and faiths during the many centuries through which my dynasty traces an unbroken line of succession in accordance with our system of Hindu Law.

The equality of women with men in matters of property rights and in legislative and other fields of activity is a *fait accompli* here, and, in the matter of education, we are in a peculiarly fortunate and privileged position. The literates per hundred males number 38 in Travancore as against 14·4 in British India 14·3 in Mysore and 5·7 in Hyderabad. The figures in the case of women are more striking. We have a literate population of 17·3 women per hundred, as against 2 in British India, 2·2 in Mysore and 0·8 in Hyderabad. There are two women lawyers practising in our courts, and our medical and educational institutions can claim a large number of capable and efficient women workers. Our women are keenly alive to the importance of social work, and it is a well known fact that women,

including those belonging to the labouring and depressed classes, enjoy a higher status here than elsewhere in India.

Public opinion is well developed, and there are over a hundred periodicals and newspapers circulating in the State.

In welcoming you to Travancore and offering my whole-hearted co-operation in the tasks that confront you, I have no doubt that, while you are considering and elucidating the problems ahead of you, you will remember the history and traditions of my State and people, and their customs and qualities and the special relations that bind them to their Ruler.

It is with legitimate gratification that I refer to the very close ties of loyal alliance and friendliness that have, during many centuries, marked the relations of Travancore with the people and the Government of Great Britain whose destinies and ours have been closely linked together with such mutual advantage and profit.

Let me conclude by thanking you, Mr. Davidson, for the very kind sentiments to

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which you have given expression. I no  
the utmost pleasure, propose the health  
distinguished guests.

8. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
HIS HIGHNESS'S SUBJECTS AND  
WELL-WISHERS IN MADRAS

*His Highness made the following reply to an Address presented to him at Khoosaldas Gardens on the 27th of February 1932 by His Highness's subjects and well-wishers resident in Madras :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity, after my investiture, to receive from you these renewed expressions of the goodwill that was manifested on an earlier occasion when I was returning to Trivandrum after my visit to Simla. As you rightly observe, I have assumed the responsibilities of Government at a most eventful period of India's history. Although my period of administration has been brief, it has been long enough to convince me of the greatness of the tasks ahead

of me and their variety and scope. Let me assure you that it will be my aim to work for the continued prosperity of my State on the lines laid down by my illustrious predecessors, but modified, of course, to suit present-day needs and aspirations.

I thank you very warmly for the sentiments expressed by you in your Address which, I need hardly say, are a source of encouragement and pleasure to me.

## 9. AT THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES

*His Highness made the following reply to the welcome accorded to him by the Chamber of Princes at New Delhi on the 28th of March 1932 :*

Your Excellency,\* Your Highness Chancellor  
and Your Highnesses,

I feel honoured as well as touched by the cordial welcome that has been accorded to me by my brother Princes and by the expressions of kindly comradeship that have accompanied the welcome. On such an occasion I can, and shall, say no more than this, that it will be my endeavour to maintain our traditions and to co-operate under the ægis of the Crown in the great tasks of preserving our individuality and our heritage and simultaneously of working for the common good and uplift of our country. It is my good fortune to have inherited from my illustrious predecessors a

\* His Excellency Lord Willingdon.

settled and progressive system of administration working in close contact with my people and in sympathy with their needs and aspirations. It will be my ambition and my happiness, with the goodwill of His Excellency the Viceroy and your sympathy, to proceed along these lines and to fulfil my responsibilities to my people and to the motherland.

## 10. AT THE SCOUT RALLY, 1932

*His Highness made the following reply to an Address presented to him by the Travancore Boy Scouts at the Scout Rally held on the 31st of October 1932 in honour of His Highness's birthday :*

Mr. State Commissioner, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with very great pleasure that I attend and take part in the Scout functions connected with my birthday and receive your Address and greetings.

Scout Rallies like the present one are very valuable in that they bring Scouts and Rovers from all parts of the State together and make them live a common life. It is with this object that great gatherings like those at Kanderstag and the one now contemplated in Hungary are organised by those at the head of the Movement. But, as you rightly point out, instructive and useful as these Rallies are,

even more important is the day-to-day inculcation of scout virtues and practice of scout duties ; and I feel sure that the Scouts of the State will remember that the Scout law has both an individual as well as a mass appeal. It was with a lively appreciation of this aspect of the matter that I made last year my appeal for the development of Rovering, and I now repeat the same appeal. The Movement is not to be regarded merely as an additional item in the curriculum of Secondary Schools but should be deemed to be a part of the discipline of a young man fitting him for the responsibilities of the world by the acquisition of those qualities of cheerfulness and service which are of the essence of scouting.

I am gratified to learn that you as State Commissioner enjoy the co-operation of your fellow-workers. To the extent to which those having the direction of the Movement work together in amity and concord and to the extent to which they display the qualities of unobtrusive and continuous work, they will furnish an example and a stimulus to their

junior brethren.

I am somewhat disappointed that it has not been possible to take any steps to construct the Headquarters building, and I fervently hope that before the end of another year this imperative need will have been met. In saying this let me not be understood to minimise the importance of the development of scouting in all the centres of the State and not merely in the capital.

I am glad that an Indian who, for the time being, is associated with Travancore has been awarded the decoration of Silver Wolf. As you know, the Scout Movement does not recognise any gradations or distinctions; but, nevertheless, the award should be a source of encouragement and emulation to all Scouts.

As you justly point out, a great deal of work lies before us, and let me hope that the next year will see a rapid and solid progress in every direction of scouting and in that process of character-building which is characteristic of the Movement.

11. AT THE L. M. S. HOSPITAL, NEYYOOR

*In opening a new building of the L. M. S. Hospital, Neyyoor, on the 13th of January 1933, His Highness made the following speech :*

Dr. Somervell,\* Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has afforded me genuine pleasure to visit the Neyyoor Hospital and to open the new building which is the latest of the many laudable attempts made by the authorities to keep the institution abreast of modern requirements.

I have read with lively interest the reports of the Hospital which has not only been long established, but has with its various developments met the urgent needs of the people and has, I am specially glad to say, supplemented and co-operated with the State Hospitals. I sincerely trust that this spirit of co-operation will be as marked in the future as it has hitherto been.

\* Dr. T. H. Somervell M. A., M. B., B. Ch., F. R. C. S.

## SPEECHES & MESSAGES

You claim with justice that yours is the largest Medical Mission in the world, and that, next only to the General Hospital, Madras, you have the largest surgical side in South India up-to-date; and, taking advantage of recent scientific discoveries, you have, with the assistance of your able colleagues, steadily extended the area of your beneficent activities until to-day I am able to participate in the opening of a new laboratory and consulting room and a much-needed nursing home and to congratulate you on the fine achievements to your credit. The reputation of your hospital and its success are widely recognised and appreciated, and no more striking evidence is needed in this respect than the endowments founded by those who have benefited by your care and attention.

You have referred with pride to the achievements of Dr. Pugh, who is surely with us in spirit to-day although not in body. He was a trusted adviser of my family and myself, and I still have pleasant recollections of his skill and his helpfulness. In you, Dr.

Somervell, he has had a fit successor, and I am happy that the friendly relations between my family and the Doctors in charge of this institution have been maintained right through. I take this opportunity to express my admiration of, and sympathy with, the notable work you have been doing in the hospitals and leper homes under your charge and wish to assure you that I shall watch those activities with much interest.

Before I open the new building, a task which I fulfil with much pleasure, let me take this opportunity to announce a personal donation of Rs. 1000 towards the funds of the hospital — this being a small token of my appreciation of your hospital and many-sided efforts.

## 12. REPLY TO THE CIVIC ADDRESS FROM THE NAGERCOIL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

*The Nagercoil Municipal Council presented a Civic Address to His Highness at Ramavarmapuram Palace, Nagercoil, on the 11th of February 1933, and to this His Highness gave the following reply :*

Gentlemen,

I thank you sincerely for your expressions of loyalty and devotion and for the warm welcome you have extended to me. It gives me very great pleasure to note your varied activities in promoting the health and comfort of the people committed to your care, and I particularly appreciate your zealous efforts to provide them with all the amenities of civic life.

You rightly take pride in the natural situation of Nagercoil within twelve miles of the Cape with a dry climate which acts as a

tonic and restorative to those who come within its influence. You have emphasised the importance of the scheme of protected water-supply for your town and have also referred to certain methods of augmenting your revenue resources.

I have no doubt that my Government are fully alive to your needs and aspirations, and will always be prepared to lend you assistance in the introduction of ameliorative schemes intended to raise the standard of civic life. I wish you God-speed.

### 13. AT CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, LONDON

*At a dinner given in honour of Lord Linlithgow, Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for India, and Members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, at Claridge's Hotel, London, on the 15th of June 1933, His Highness made the following speech :*

I consider it specially fortunate that my first visit to this country to whose Sovereigns the Rulers of my State have been linked for nearly two centuries by the ties of unbroken allegiance and co-operation, has coincided with events of such far-reaching importance as the World Economic Conference and the Sessions of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Though situated in the southernmost corner of the Indian Continent, the Rulers and peoples of my State have taken full advantage of modern ideas, and my predecessors have inaugurated representative institutions and

initiated schemes of education, public health and other activities which enable me to say without exaggeration that in such matters as literacy, medical relief and the position occupied by women in society, Travancore can stand comparison with any part of India. It is my fervent hope that it will be given to me to cherish and to promote the ideals that have been handed down to me as my heritage, and it is with this object in view that I have just now introduced a further measure of political reform in my State and brought into existence an enlarged legislature with an Upper and Lower House, having a large proportion of elected members and considerable powers. In doing so, I have been mindful of the need to conserve the ancient ideals of Indian kingship, while fitting the State to play its part in any constitution that may be devised for India as a whole. It is not my intention to discuss the details of any such constitution, but I feel sure that the special needs and problems of an important maritime State like Travancore, with a population of over five millions, will be kept

in view by those who are charged with the great task of constitution-building.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Secretary of State for India, Lord Linlithgow, the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the members of the Joint Committee and my other guests who are all good friends of India.

#### 14. MESSAGE TO THE TWO HOUSES OF THE REFORMED LEGISLATURE

*At the inaugural meeting of the Sri Chitra State Council and the Sri Mulam Assembly on the 31st of July 1933, Mr. T. Austin, Dewan-President, read the following Message from His Highness :*

The two Houses of the re-constituted legislature of Travancore are now about to commence their labours, and although I shall not be able to inaugurate them in person, I shall be with them in spirit, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I send to them a message of God-speed and of congratulations to the elected and nominated members who are now shouldering large responsibilities.

These two legislative bodies have been designed to carry forward the policy initiated by my illustrious predecessors of enabling the people of the State to take part in the

legislative, financial and other measures concerning Travancore and to bring to the notice of my Government the needs and aspirations of the people. Very large powers of legislature, financial scrutiny and interpellation have been vested in them, and I hope and trust that in a spirit of mutual co-operation and good-feeling, these powers will be exercised for the good of Travancore and in such manner as to help Travancore to take adequate and honourable part in achieving the destiny of India. I feel sure that the various communities and interests represented by election and nomination will realise that the world is passing through a critical period and that in Travancore, as elsewhere, politics are but a means to an end and there is need for a wide outlook and a patriotism that transcends temporary and accidental barriers of birth and creed to bring about the rehabilitation of our agriculture and the development of our industries and the general levelling up of our standards with a view to secure for our people the peace and prosperity that are the aims as well as the

justification of all Governments.

I am glad to inform you that the constitutional experiment that has been started in Travancore is being watched with sympathy and interest by many outside the State, as is evident from the speech recently made by the Right. Hon. the Secretary of State for India, and I am confident that, with the co-operation of all the members and the valued friendship of the Paramount Power and of His Majesty's representatives in India, the State will play its appropriate role in the India of the future.

## 15. REPLY TO THE CIVIC ADDRESS FROM THE CORPORATION OF MADRAS

*A Civic Address was presented to His Highness by the Mayor and the Councillors of the Corporation of Madras on the 26th of August 1933 at the Ripon Buildings, Madras, and to this His Highness gave the following reply :*

Mr. Mayor and Councillors of the Madras Corporation,

I deeply appreciate the compliment paid to Travancore by the chosen representatives of the capital city of the Madras Presidency in welcoming me after my European tour and in extending their well-known hospitality to the Ruler of a neighbouring State.

As you justly point out, Travancore and Madras are closely connected not solely by reason of geographical nearness but by commercial, religious and cultural associations; and until recently, the State of Travancore had

intimate administrative ties with the Government of Madras. Just as you are interested in the prosperity and progress of my State, so shall I rejoice at the prosperity and progress of your Presidency and your metropolis.

During my recent tour to which you have referred so appreciatively, I have seen enough to realise what can be done by united national and civic effort in the furtherance of the amenities of life amongst all classes including the housing of workers, the provision of parks and places for physical culture and general recreation; and I hope the people of our country, while cherishing their own ideals, will emulate the example set by our brethren of the West.

I thank you sincerely for the good wishes expressed in your generously-worded Address towards me personally and towards my State. This, I feel certain, will be a great encouragement to me and my people in the tasks that are ahead of my Government. Above all, I value the cordiality of your welcome as a proof and promise of friendly feelings and co-operation between Madras and Travancore.

16. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
THE KERALA RESIDENTS OF MADRAS

*His Highness made the following reply to an Address presented to him by the people of Kerala resident in Madras on the 26th of August 1933 :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although the people of Kerala are widely distributed and live in several jurisdictions, yet they are all closely knit together by ties of language, history and culture ; and I am, therefore, very glad to receive the Address presented on behalf of the people of Kerala resident in Madras welcoming me back to India after my European tour. As you observe, this is the first occasion that the Ruler of my State has visited Europe. I had the opportunity of paying my respects to Their Majesties and of meeting some of the leading men of the world. I have further seen how much can be achieved by the well-directed enterprise of united and

patriotic communities in the promotion of national well-being.

I am grateful to you for the appreciative manner in which you have spoken of the efforts made by my Government in the matter of the reconstitution of the legislature so as to bring about a more effective association with the people in fiscal and legislative spheres. Notwithstanding the progress already achieved, there are still many directions in which further improvement and progress are essential; and, in coping with the problems of the future, it will always be a source of encouragement to me to know that the support and co-operation of the people of Kerala can always be counted upon. I am also heartened by the circumstance that the constitutional experiment has elicited the approval of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State. But no political or other reform can be successful, nor can it conduce to real advance, unless mutual trust and a patriotism transcending sectional interests are manifested, and it is my hope and conviction that the highly educated and acute men of

Kerala will realise and act on this idea.

I sincerely thank you for the honour done to me and for the kind reference you have made with regard to my mother.

17. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
THE CUTCH MEMON MERCHANTS, MADRAS

*His Highness gave the following reply to an Address presented to him by the Cutch Memon Merchants of Madras at Khoosaldas Gardens on the 26th of August 1933 :*

Mr. Sheriff and Members of the Cutch Memon Community,

I thank you sincerely for your greetings and good wishes and feel gratified that you and other representatives of the important commercial community of Cutch Memon are satisfied that your interests are adequately secured in my State.

18. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
THE NUMBUDRI YOGAKSHEMA  
MAHA SABHA

*In reply to an address presented to His Highness at Madras by the Members of the Nambudri Yogakshema Maha Sabha on the 26th of August 1933, His Highness made the following speech :*

Gentlemen,

The greetings and welcome offered on behalf of an ancient and respected community like yours is naturally a source of great pleasure to me and to the members of my family. I note with special satisfaction that although your culture is essentially based on religion and the preservation of your spiritual heritage, you nevertheless realise that a progressive adaptation to changing circumstances is essential, and your references to my visit to Europe is a proof of your wise adjustments to present-day

needs. You, I am sure, will be the first to realise that the step that myself and the members of my family have taken is quite consistent with an abiding faith in the essentials of our religion.

The Ruler of Travancore cannot but be conscious of the great contributions that your community has made in the past to the civilisation of Kerala, and I am, as you say, greatly interested in its welfare and prosperity.

I thank you sincerely for the welcome that you have accorded to me and to the members of my family.

## 19. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF QUILON

*His Highness gave the following reply to an Address presented to him on the 27th of August 1933 by the Citizens of Quilon on His Highness' return from Europe :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank the inhabitants of the ancient city of Quilon for the welcome they have accorded to me and to the members of my family and for the sentiments of loyalty and goodwill that have been manifested in your Address.

This tour was undertaken, as you have rightly stated, primarily with the intention of becoming personally acquainted with the details of western institutions which are so deeply influencing our country.

I have visited most of the important countries in Europe and observed the working

of the civic and national institutions of the West and have been struck with the orderly and concentrated efforts that are being devoted to the solution of the difficult problems which are no less urgent and immense in Europe than amongst us. It is my hope that the knowledge that I have gained in my travels may be of benefit to the State.

I rejoice that throughout your Address there is discernible the spirit of co-operation, for, in the many difficult problems that face India in general and Travancore in particular, no satisfactory progress is possible without complete and continuous co-operation between the Ruler and subject and between the various communities and interests in the State.

I thank you sincerely for the expression of your loyalty as well as for your greetings and the kindly sentiments that you have expressed to myself and to the members of my House.

20    REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
         THE PEOPLE OF TRAVANCORE

*On His Highness' return from Europe the People of Travancore presented to him an Address on the 27th of August 1933, and to this His Highness made the following reply :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Address that has just been presented by the people of Travancore is naturally a source of great satisfaction to me, and I am touched by the sentiments of loyalty and welcome which permeate it.

You have referred to my being the first Maharaja of Travancore to visit Europe. My tour has furnished many useful lessons and enabled me to meet some of the leading men of the world who gathered together for the World Economic Conference. I am glad that I was able to visit England at an important juncture when the Joint Parliamentary

Committee was sitting and because it afforded me the privilege of meeting Their Majesties and the members of the Royal Family.

During my travels I have had occasion to visit London and important manufacturing towns like Manchester and Sheffield, centres of civic and national life like Paris and Berlin, Vienna and Prague, Geneva, Milan, Rome and Naples. In Rome, as you may have heard, I met the Pope at the Vatican. What has impressed me deeply during this visit has been, not so much the external achievement of Western life and art, but the deep spirit of patriotism and of mutual co-operation and truly national endeavour that is pulsating through many countries in Europe. The lesson of orderly discipline and of co-operation of all communities in the country's tasks is one of which Europe affords many examples which are worthy of constant emulation by us.

You express the hope that the position and status of Travancore may be maintained and enhanced. To do so and to make our State and its possibilities known to the world

outside have been my constant endeavour, but its success is largely dependent on the co-operation which myself and my Government receive from the people of Travancore who, I feel sure, will, in full consciousness of the immensity and difficulty of the tasks before us, especially at this critical epoch, work with a common aim for common ends.

I was genuinely distressed to hear that during my absence, Travancore had been afflicted by serious floods, but I am glad to realise that my Government has done its best to alleviate the distress caused by this catastrophe.

It is with great joy that I return to my capital, and it is my hope and desire to utilise for the benefit of the State the knowledge and experience that I have gained during my brief sojourn in the West.

On behalf of myself, my mother, brother and sister, I thank you warmly, and trust and join in your hope that Travancore will make rapid progress in every direction and that her people will be united and prosperous.

21. REPLY TO THE CIVIC ADDRESS FROM  
THE TRIVANDRUM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

*His Highness gave the following reply to a Civic Address presented to him on the 8th of September 1933 by the Trivandrum Municipal Council on His Highness's return from Europe:*

Mr. President and Members of the Trivandrum Municipal Council,

It gives me genuine pleasure to receive the felicitations and welcome accorded by the representatives of the capital of the State on my return.

You have adverted to the water-supply and drainage of the town and to the question of the speedy extension of electric light to all parts of the city, and you have also referred to the possibilities of well-conceived town-planning. I am indeed glad that these important questions are engaging your attention, and I am sure that it is your desire, as it is

mine, to see to it that in the matter of securing the civic amenities that are so prominent a feature of modern life, you should follow the best models. I assure you that I am deeply interested in the problem of making Trivandrum as healthy, pleasant and beautiful as undoubtedly nature has intended it to be.

On this occasion I do not wish to say more but wish you God-speed in your efforts, and I thank you on behalf of my mother and family for your welcome which I much appreciate.

## 22. AT THE SCOUT RALLY, 1933

*His Highness gave the following reply to an Address presented to him by the Travancore Boy Scouts at the Scout Rally held on the 21st of October 1933 in honour of His Highness's birthday :*

Mr. President and Members of the Boy Scouts Association,

The felicitations and good wishes expressed by you on behalf of the Travancore Boy Scouts Association are a source of real pleasure to me. More than once I have indicated the value I attach to the spread of the Scout Movement and to its intensive development. To-day I repeat again that it is our duty to forward in every way an organisation which, amidst so much confusion and turmoil and depression in the world, is bearing aloft the banner of cheerful service and effective and unostentatious brotherliness.

Your Address brings home the advance made by the Association in many directions, in Rovering and Cubbing, in adequate training of workers and in Camps and Rallies, not only in the capital but in the districts.

I am very glad that you have made full use of your new Headquarters building and premises and turned them into good account and that you have been able to obtain from your savings some Patrol Tents which should prove very useful.

The popularity of the Wood Badge course is of good augury for the future, because it represents the most valuable aspect of scouting and its culminating effort. Let me thank you for your greetings and hope that the Movement will grow from strength to strength spreading its message of comradeship and true citizenship to every corner of our State and country.

## 23. AT THE STATE BANQUET GIVEN IN HONOUR OF THE VICEREGAL VISIT

*A State Banquet was given in honour of His Excellency Lord Willingdon and Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon on the occasion of their visit to Travancore at Kana-kakunnu Palacc, Trivandrum, on the 10th of December 1933, and in proposing the toast to their health His Highness made the following speech :*

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In extending a most hearty welcome to our distinguished guests and in proposing the health of His Excellency the Viceroy and Her Excellency the Vicereine, I feel that I am not merely honouring the representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor in India and his wife on the occasion of an official visit to my State, but that I am also performing the very pleasant task of greeting two

old and tried friends of the State and the country. Lord Willingdon has administered two of the greatest provinces in India and has had the unique experience of being at the head of a diplomatic mission to China and later on being the head of the senior dominion in the British Empire. He then took up the Viceroyalty of India, and we know how much this country owes to his championship of her cause and to his desire to see the fulfilment of her noblest aspirations. We also realise how much his work in many directions has been facilitated by the energy and the personality of his consort.

Viceregal visits to Travancore have not been frequent. Indeed, after Lord Curzon, the first Viceroy to visit Travancore was Your Excellency's predecessor. Travancore labours under the disadvantage of great distance from the seat of the Indian Government, but we, in Travancore, realise that at least so far as Your Excellencies are concerned, the proverb "Delhi dur ast" is not applicable. It was in 1920 that Your Excellency, when Governor of

Madras, visited Travancore, renewed your long-standing friendship with His Highness the late Maharaja and endeared yourself to our people; your second visit in 1922 confirmed the impression we had received of a kindly personality and added enthusiasm to our interest and participation in the Wembley Exhibition.

It was a source of considerable disappointment that Your Excellencies were not able, on account of pressure of public business, to pay a visit to this State in 1931 on the occasion of my Investiture; but I am gratified that you have been able to fulfil the promise that you would be with us at the earliest possible opportunity, and I count myself fortunate in that I have been able to renew in my capital the many ties which specially bind Your Excellencies and me and the members of my House. Equally ardent is my welcome to your Excellency as the representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor. The traditional loyalty of my House to the British Throne was inherent in me, but my personal

contact with Their Majesties during my recent visit to London has transferred a cold tradition into a warm living feeling of staunch and abiding friendship. I also take this opportunity to tender my warm thanks to Your Excellency and through you to His Majesty for conferring on my dear mother and the mothers of future Rulers of Travancore the high distinction of being styled "Their Highnesses".

At my Investiture in 1931 and in response to Your Excellency's gracious and kindly message, I referred to my great inheritance and my desire to uphold the traditions that characterised the constitutional and beneficent rule of my predecessors. May I reiterate my determination to follow their example, bearing in mind on the one hand my duty to preserve the monarchical principle which has its undoubted value in the changing and shifting conditions of the modern world and, on the other, my obligation to treat equally and equitably all classes and communities committed to my care?

My own rule of two years is too short for a review of events, nor is it for me to appraise their value. But I may be excused if I refer to a few of the endeavours made to secure good government and well-being to my State. The appointment of the Public Service Committee, whose report is being dealt with, has for its object the organisation of the services of the State with due regard to efficiency and equality of opportunities to all classes of my subjects to serve their country. An extension of the scope of the Panchayat Courts, the problem of Laws' Delays, facilities for Town-planning, help for the Depressed Classes, are questions engaging the attention of my Government. On the economic side, the operations of the Co-operative Societies are being scrutinised with a view to their greater usefulness; negotiations are in progress for opening a large spinning and weaving mill; minor irrigation for small areas has been taken up seriously; and most important of all, a Hydro-Electric Department has been created, and a scheme at Pallivasal to supply cheap power for the industrial development

of the country is under construction. Our land has suffered terribly from the world economic depression, especially as ours is a country largely dependent on its export trade and customs revenue. Rubber, cocoanut products, spices and oil-seeds have fallen in value and various steps have had to be taken to aid the cultivator. Remissions varying from 25 per cent to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent have been made on the land tax; a Land Mortgage Bank has been established and the State is co-operating with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in their investigation into the condition of the cocoanut industry and the marketing of its products. Other far-reaching schemes concern the Education and Health of the people. Mr. Statham was specially appointed to enquire into the educational system of the country and propose reforms. His Report has been submitted, and he has now been appointed as Director of Public Instruction to re-organise the Department. The importance of his work may be gauged when it is remembered that the State spends 20 per cent of its revenue on

Education. Already some of the Committee's recommendations have been given effect to. The Public Health and Sanitary Departments have been combined and formed into a new Public Health Department with the valuable co-operation of the Rockefeller Foundation. The Town Water-supply which Your Excellency will inaugurate to-morrow and the Town Drainage Scheme which is under investigation will immeasurably improve the condition of life and the health of Trivandrum.

The re-organisation of the State Forces is on hand; a Committee is sitting over the perplexing question of Temple Entry; and a scheme is being evolved for helping the Poor and Infirm.

In addition, as Your Excellency knows, I have promulgated a Regulation introducing a complete reform of the Legislative Council. The new Legislature consists of two Houses, the Sri Mulam Assembly and the Sri Chitra State Council, with complete freedom of speech and extensive powers to control legislation and finance, all subjects being open to

discussion save only my relations with the Paramount Power and matters concerning my family. These reforms have stirred the country throughout its length and breadth. In a highly literate State like Travancore certain points can hardly fail to be controversial, but age-long inequalities cannot be levelled with a stroke of the pen, and they call for delicate and gradual re-adjustments which will be aided by the operation of the newly awakened social consciousness amongst all communities.

I am full of confidence that, when the time arrives, my people will have gained the political experience necessary to enable my State to occupy a fitting place in the new self-governing India that is rising to view in the Empire's horizon. I feel I may make the boast that historically and by their character and capacity for education and discipline my country and my people have justified their claim to be ranked among the most forward in India; to maintain this position in the future India, I shall strain every nerve. I call upon my subjects to co-operate with me and would

ask Your Excellency as the representative of the Paramount Power to help us. I feel sure that from Your Excellency we shall always receive justice in our legitimate demands, and fortified by the feeling that Your Excellency will watch with sympathetic care the progress of my State, I conclude by wishing Your Excellencies all happiness and prosperity, and I ask those assembled to rise and drink to the health of His Excellency the Viceroy and Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon.

24. AT THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION  
STONE OF THE NEW TRAVANCORE  
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

*His Highness the Maharaja delivered the following speech requesting His Excellency Lord Willingdon to lay the foundation stone of the new Travancore Legislative Chamber on the 12th of December 1933 :*

Your Excellency,

It is a matter of great pleasure to me that Your Excellency has consented to lay the foundation stone of the new Travancore Legislative Chamber. Your participation in this function is specially appropriate, for, not only has Your Excellency been a distinguished member both of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, but, descended as you are from one of the notable Speakers of the House of Commons, the Parliamentary tradition is in your blood, and I regard it as a piece of

good fortune that Your Excellency should be associated with the reorganised Legislature of my State.

This new building is intended to house the Sri Mulam Assembly and the Sri Chitra State Council, forming the newly constituted Legislature of Travancore. In the Assembly there will be sixty-two non-official and ten official members, and in the State Council twenty-seven non-official and ten official members. The Government have resorted to the nomination principle to a strictly restricted extent for the representation of women and minorities on the Councils. The majority is thus essentially non-official. Legislation, finance, interpellations on practically all matters of administration, votes on appointments carrying a salary up to Rs. 500, all come within the purview of the Legislature—powers, which, added to complete freedom of speech, give the people a big controlling voice in matters affecting Government.

This reform constitutes what, I believe, is the largest measure of association of the

people of an Indian State with its Government and also represents a definite step towards the realisation of the federal idea. It is the hope of every one interested in the progress of the State that these representative bodies will function so as to ensure orderly and peaceful progress in every direction and keep the Government in close touch with sane and instructed public opinion. The prosperity of a country can only be brought about by a general levelling up of the standards of life and thought and by the surmounting of those obstacles to financial and economic prosperity which confront this State no less than other States and Governments of the world at this juncture, and it is my hope that the Legislature will devote its attention to these problems of paramount importance and be of real help in their solution.

May I request Your Excellency to lay the foundation stone of this structure ?

25. AT A STATE BANQUET GIVEN IN  
HONOUR OF THE WEDDING OF H. H.  
PRINCESS KARTHIKA THIRUNAL

*At a State Banquet given in honour of the Pallikettu of Her Highness Princess Karthika Thirunal, His Highness the Maharaja made the following speech responding to the toast proposed by Lt. Col. Field, Agent to the Governor-General, at Kanakakunnu Palace on the 29th of January 1934 :*

On behalf of my sister and the bridegroom I rise to respond to the toast so felicitously proposed by Col. Field and so kindly received by all present.

This is in truth a somewhat unique occasion, because this is the first time during many decades that a marriage takes place in my family at which the mother and brother of a Princess participate in the festivities.

The congratulations and good wishes to

which you have given expression in your speech not only furnish an instance of your personal friendship, but are a token of the close amity and alliance that have all along existed between the Sovereigns of England and their representatives and the successive members of my house, and on my own behalf and on behalf of the bridal couple I thank you sincerely for the cordiality of your sentiments and request you to convey my sincere thanks to Their Majesties and His Excellency the Viceroy.

This occasion is also rendered more than ordinarily auspicious by reason of the presence of so many distinguished guests from Sister States and elsewhere. His Highness the Yuvarajah\* is not only a valued friend, but my stay in Mysore during the period of my administrative training has strengthened the ties of friendship binding Travancore and Mysore. I am also happy to welcome the other guests who have accepted my invitation to attend the wedding, and I only hope that

\* H. H. the Yuvarajah of Mysore.

they have found their stay in Travancore comfortable and trust that they will carry away with them pleasant memories of my State. I thank you once more for the warm-hearted manner in which the toast has been proposed, and I conclude by asking you all to drink to the health of our guests. I couple with the toast the name of His Highness the Yuvarajah of Mysore.

## 26. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE KERALA RESIDENTS OF CALCUTTA

*His Highness gave the following reply to an address presented to him on the 30th of September 1934 by the people of Kerala resident in Calcutta :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I have received your Address and witnessed the manifestations of goodwill from the inhabitants of Kerala, of which I have been the recipient in Calcutta. I deeply appreciate the very warm sentiments that are embodied in the address, in which you characterise the recent progress made in various directions in Travancore and the attempts that myself and my Government are making to advance the interests of the people of Travancore. I am deeply touched by the reference you have made to my mother, to my brother and to my sister, and in

tendering my sincerest thanks for the spontaneity of your welcome, let me wish you all prosperity in the several spheres in which you are working so far away from your native land.

## 27. AT THE SCOUT RALLY, 1934

*His Highness made the following reply to an Address presented to him by the Travancore Boy Scouts at the Scout Rally held on the 8th of November 1934 in honour of His Highness's birthday :*

Mr. State Commissioner, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I acknowledge with sincere gratification the expressions of goodwill and the congratulations which you have conveyed on behalf of the representatives of the various branches of the Scout Movement on my birthday this year.

Listening to your Address I realise that a great deal of very useful work has been done, and I am glad to hear that the visit of Mr. Wilson has served as a stimulus to efficient and organised endeavour. I am also glad that in addition to the usual training courses and camps, a Commissioner's course was held during Onam, and there is little doubt that

the results will be satisfactory.

There are, however, two aspects of the Movement to which attention may be specially directed, and I believe that these aspects require careful consideration by all those who are interested in a Movement so full of promise for the future and so essential from every point of view. The time has arrived when the Scout Movement should not be regarded merely as a State Department. The Scout spirit, should, on the other hand, be a manifestation of a national impetus and should be organised to serve the interests of the people at large and derive its vitality from a truly popular impulse. The message of the Scouts should be carried to every village, the value of the Movement brought home to young and old not only by propaganda but by demonstrations of Scout activity and helpfulness. The Movement is and must be broad-based and free from official, communal or race bias. Ceaseless work in the right spirit is requisite, and the need for workers is great. I trust that in the coming year these considerations will

play their part in the work of the Association, and I shall watch with sympathy and care the growth of a Movement in which, as you know, I take keen personal interest.

I thank you for your felicitations and wish you success in your laudable endeavour.

28. MESSAGE READ AT THE OPENING  
OF THE SRI CHITRA POOR HOME

*At the opening of the Sri Chitra Poor Home by Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bai, on the 18th of November 1934, Dewan Bahadur V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar read the following Message from His Highness the Maharaja :*

It affords me sincere pleasure to see that the Home which was inaugurated in 1931 has been established on a sound basis and under proper management. What has been attempted touches only the fringe of the problem, and in sending to the Poor Home which is about to be opened a message of goodwill and God-speed, it is my fervent hope that the people of my State will materially augment the resources and help in the working of an institution whose laudable object it is to eradicate mendicancy and distress by methods of organised relief.

29. AT KAVIRAJ GANANATH SEN'S  
AYURVEDIC COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL

*His Highness gave the following reply to an Address presented to him by the Board of Trustees and the Governing Body of Kaviraj Gananath Sen's Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Calcutta, on the 6th of January 1935:*

Gentlemen,

My sincere thanks are due to the Board of Trustees and the Governing Body of the Ayurvedic College, Hospital and Research Institute for their cordial welcome to me, and I am glad to have the opportunity of visiting an institution whose object is the improvement and resuscitation of the science of Ayurveda. I can claim with legitimate pride that indigenous medical lore and methods of treatment have been in vogue for centuries in Malabar and especially in my State, and that the science and practice of Indian medicine

have, as you point out, received continuous and unstinted support from the successive Rulers of Travancore. Although a wave of scepticism swept over the country at one time with regard to this science, it is now admitted by all competent observers that indigenous drugs and medical preparations have an undoubted value in the treatment of a variety of diseases, and it is noteworthy that many of the preparations and methods, which at one time were dismissed as empiric and unscientific, are receiving recognition even at the hands of Western scientists and doctors. Whatever hasty criticism may declare, after all the test of a medicine lies in the curing of disease, and, judged by that test, the hospitals in my country and elsewhere practising this system of medicine have shown that they can deal with the problem of disease effectively. As you yourselves indicate in the Address, a large proportion of patients in such hospitals and vaidya salas are restored to health, and our task consists in fully recognising the utility of this treatment and helping to make the science

progressive instead of stagnant. Modern methods of accurate measurement, of careful prescriptions and of proper methods of preparation must be insisted on and a really scientific outlook imparted to the professors of these systems. Even the science of surgery made very great progress in the old days and, indeed, some of the most modern instruments are based on the old models and, in fact, bear the old names. Here, as in medicine, what is required is not to rest content with past achievement but to indicate an era of scientific enquiry for the purpose of reviving and energising our ancient system. I feel sure it is the aim of institutions like yours, guided as it is by a celebrated physician whose reputation is of an All-India character, to wipe out this reproach and revitalise the science.

It affords me particular pleasure to realise that the head of the Ayurvedic College of Trivandrum was a student of your institution, and I hope that all centres of Ayurvedic medicine will co-operate with each other to

\* Kaviraj Gananath Sen.

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achieve the aims which all of us cherish.

On behalf of my mother and myself, I extend my sincere thanks to you for the kind words in which your Address has been couched and for the warmth of your welcome.

30. AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNER  
STONE OF THE POWER HOUSE  
AT PALLIVASAL

*In performing the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Power House at Pallivasal on the 1st of March 1935, His Highness made the following speech :*

The initiation of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme in which I am very glad to take part is an event to which I attach great significance. As is well known the conditions in Travancore are such that the rapidly growing population cannot rely solely or even mainly on old-time agricultural methods of production; and it is a problem of vital importance to the State to discover new avenues of employment and secure the industrialisation of the State by the starting of large-scale and cottage industries suited to the country and the traditions and capacities of the people. Unfortunately we do not possess any coal or oil resources, but

on the other hand, we are lucky in possessing an abundant supply of what is often called "white power," and it is our duty to utilise this power to the greatest advantage. I have, therefore, from the very commencement of this enterprise taken the keenest personal interest in it, and realising as I do what inestimable advantages have been reaped by other countries similarly situated by the harnessing of their water power and how both from the financial and from the industrial point of view those countries have benefited immeasurably by consistent and wise hydro-electric policy, I have every hope that this scheme and other schemes which may be ushered by it will effect a great and beneficial change in many directions.

As you\* have rightly stressed in your speech, one of the reasons that induced the Travancore Government to select this in preference to other schemes was the comparatively small cost of the head works required compared with the volume and head of water available and the accessibility of the head works, especially

\* Mr. K. P. P. Menon, Electrical Engineer.

after the completion of the Pallivasal-Neriamangalam Road. Moreover, you have also stated that an additional advantage in regard to this scheme is the possibility of a large market at the initial stages. I may say that at the rate at which we shall be able to supply power for large and small scale industries and for municipal and other purposes, I do not feel pessimistic as to the market; and experience elsewhere demonstrates that the Indian villager very easily appreciates the advantages of cheap power at his door.

I notice that very great care has been taken with regard to the details of the scheme which has for its object the supply of power in the first instance to an area ranging from Alwaye to Thiruvella. Another welcome feature in the scheme is the utilisation of the local timber resources of the State. The new process of seasoning timber so as to make it available for these purposes, if successful, will make a great difference to the cost of the scheme and will, in other respects, not only effect great savings in the future, but enable

us to use our forests to the fullest advantage.

It is my hope that your programme will be completed up to time, so that electric supply will be commenced in the latter half of 1936 and that all those who are interested in the various contracts connected with the scheme will work in full co-operation and enthusiasm and enable the scheme to be put into operation in record time. In congratulating you on the labour so far bestowed by you and those who have been associated with you and on the skill shown in designing the enterprise, let me also observe that it is very fortunate that this scheme has elicited the fullest co-operation of the legislative bodies and the public of the State, who are all expecting great results from it. It is my prayer that those expectations may be fulfilled in abundant measure and that the speedy conclusion of the scheme will lead to the greater prosperity of the State and help it at least partially to eliminate the results of the world-wide economic depression.

I now have great pleasure in laying the corner stone of the Power House.

### 31. AT THE OPENING OF THE NERIAMANGALAM BRIDGE

*In declaring the Neriamangalam Bridge open for traffic on the 2nd of March 1935, His Highness spoke as follows :*

It is with much pleasure that I participate in the last stages of the great task of providing for a communication from the productive High Ranges to the West Coast. The High Ranges have been the scene of notable activities in many directions of the great planting community, and I cannot let this occasion pass without paying a tribute to their pioneering work as well as their unremitting policy of all-round progress and attention to detail.

In your speech\* you have alluded to the several stages of the venture and sketched the history of the western outlet. But all that I wish to say on this aspect of the matter is to

\* Speech made by Mr. G. B. E. Truscott, Chief Engineer.

emphasise what you have already pointed out, namely, that it would be an act of wisdom on the part of Travancore to take a lesson from past failures and experiences and see to it that all the traffic to and from Cochin Harbour in which Travancore is a party, as well as to and from the High Ranges, passes, as it well may, through Travancore territory. Without the bridge over the Periyar, the advantages of the road which has been completed and opened to motor traffic could not have been utilised to the full, but now it can be stated that the most advantageous exploitation of the area has become possible. The history of the construction of the bridge is a chronicle of many difficulties overcome and many alterations necessitated by floods and other uncertain factors. In the result, the bridge is the largest of its kind in Travancore and will, it is hoped, throw open for many-sided development a very fertile tract of country. Incidentally, it may also be mentioned that it has brought the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme within the range of practical politics. Let us pray that

this work will serve to give a stimulus to the progress of North Travancore and initiate a period of well-regulated industrial and agricultural progress.

I have great pleasure in declaring the bridge open for traffic.

32. AT THE STATE BANQUET GIVEN IN  
HONOUR OF THE SILVER JUBILEE OF  
THEIR MAJESTIES KING GEORGE V  
AND QUEEN MARY

*In proposing the toast to their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary at a State Banquet given in honour of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee at Kanakakunnu Palace on the 7th of May 1935, His Highness the Maharaja made the following speech :*

Col. Garstin\* Ladies and Gentlemen,

With feelings of sincere loyalty, and in full remembrance and realisation of the close ties that unite me and my State with the person and Throne of His Majesty, I rise on this happy occasion of the Silver Jubilee of his reign to propose the health, the long life, and the prosperity of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor of India, who has completed

\* Lt. Col. W. A. M. Garstin, Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States,

twenty-five years of his memorable reign. It is not out of place to add that this year also marks the sixth centenary of the accession to the throne of the first historically recorded ancestor of mine who, according to our chronicles, assumed kingship of a portion of this State in the year 1335.

The English, whose first settlement in Travancore was in 1684, very soon became the steadfast friends and allies of the successive Rulers of my State, who gave them assistance in the military campaigns of the 18th century. They, in turn, came to the help of the then Ruler of Travancore during the Mysore War which was waged with the object, among others, of defending Travancore against the hostilities of Tippu Sultan. From the first treaty of alliance between Travancore and the British in 1795 up to this moment their mutual relations have been characterised by un-interrupted and close friendship; and the amity and loyalty of the Rulers towards the King have been acknowledged on several occasions and in many ways, one of the most significant being

the presentation of a banner to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore by Queen Victoria in 1877, the year in which she assumed the title of Empress of India.

The rejoicings on the present auspicious occasion, and the sentiments to which I give expression are, thus, not a matter of convention but the manifestation of feelings, sanctified by memories of joint endeavour and reciprocal assistance and proved by many acts of personal kindness displayed towards the Rulers of the State by successive British Sovereigns. Also, it is not only as the embodiment of the Paramount Power that I refer to His Majesty on this occasion, but as one who, by his personal qualities and achievements in times of stress and strain, has vindicated monarchy and has elevated kingship to a position almost unique in the history of the world, and has given a great example to those who, in their own spheres, are endeavouring to keep alive the ideals of kingship. His Majesty has, throughout his reign, identified himself with his peoples in their suffering and in their triumph, and

has been rightly termed the most hardworked public servant of his day performing his many tasks in the social and political spheres with marvellous tact and unobtrusiveness and with signal success. The success has been so remarkable that to-day, amidst all the convulsions that have overtaken the world, the Crown of England stands above all parties and political creeds, as the symbol of a very real unity and as the apex of an Empire, diverse in many respects, but combined in homage to His Majesty.

To us in India King George V is more than a distant name. His Majesty visited us when he was Prince of Wales, and again along with Her Majesty held the great Durbar in Delhi. Many Indian Rulers, including myself, who have had the opportunity of paying our respects to Their Majesties in person, know that the King-Emperor takes a lively and personal interest in the problems confronting the people and the Princes of India. They, in their turn, entertain for him not only the loyalty that is laid down as their

sacred duty in their scriptures and their traditions, but the admiration and affection due to a Sovereign who combines in himself the status and dignity of the Crowned Head of a great Commonwealth and Empire and the kindliness and tact of the head of a world-wide family.

The identity of interests between the Crown and the States is not mere political theory, but is felt to be the result of deep sympathy and understanding on the one hand, and the feeling of guaranteed position and assured prosperity on the other.

The unexampled enthusiasm and many-sided activities characterising this celebration are a splendid token of the gratitude of the Empire towards its Sovereign, and a most happy augury for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, I propose the toast of His Majesty the King-Emperor of India, as well as of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and the Royal Family.

### 33. AT THE OPENING OF THE TRAVANCORE RUBBER FACTORY

*In performing the opening ceremony of the Travancore Rubber Factory on the 17th of August 1935, His Highness the Maharaja made the following speech :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me very great pleasure to take part in the opening ceremony of the Travancore Rubber Factory, the establishment of which is another landmark in the industrial regeneration of Travancore. An efficient administration, an enlightened public opinion and liberal political institutions are the prime conditions of civilised life, but the health and strength of the people, their earning capacity and their general standard of comfort form the permanent bulwark of national prosperity. Travancore being mainly an agricultural State, the extension of cultivation is subject to various natural

limitations, but the needs of a growing population demand a supplementing of our income and our resources by the encouragement of industrial pursuits, more particularly as we possess an abundant supply of raw materials and are able to command cheap labour and transport facilities, not to mention the electric power which is available in sufficient quantities and which will provide the requisite working energy.

It is gratifying to note that out of the total area of 127,000 acres under rubber cultivation in the whole of India excluding Burma as much as 75 per cent is in Travancore. Rubber cultivation was started in this country many years ago, and from a modest beginning it assumed considerable proportions between the years 1925 and 1931. The rapid progress made in the cultivation of rubber both in and outside India was so considerable that production far exceeded the demand. With a view to adjust the supply to the demand and maintain a fair and equitable price level an agreement was entered into in 1934 by the

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various rubber producing countries of the world to restrict the production and export of rubber for a period of five years. As a result of the agreement it would not be possible to export the whole quantity of rubber produced in Travancore to other countries, and it will therefore be necessary to devise other methods to utilise as much of the excess rubber as possible, and therefore the starting of a rubber factory at this juncture is peculiarly opportune.

I am glad to observe that the machinery which were purchased have been installed and that the process of manufacture will begin at once. Travancore, with its 95,800 acres under rubber cultivation and its perennial supply of china clay which is an essential ingredient in the manufacture of rubber articles, possesses exceptional facilities which, I hope, will be taken full advantage of. The factory, I find, is equipped with up-to-date machinery for the manufacture of motor and cycle tubes, cycle and cart tyres, hoses, water-proof clothing, toys and other articles. As we are now importing a large stock of rubber goods, I hope that in

the not distant future we shall be able to produce all goods for home consumption and export. The Rubber Research Scheme which is proposed to be started by the International Rubber Research Board will, it is expected, discover new uses for rubber.

My Government will always be glad to lend their unstinted support to factory industries and large-scale production. Let me assure you that the development of cottage industries will be pursued with increased vigour as that alone can give employment to the bulk of my subjects.

I am glad to note that my officials, including Mr. Helen, the Rubber Expert, have done their work with promptitude as well as devotion, and let us hope that the factory will prove to be a great success.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very glad to declare the Travancore Rubber Factory open.

#### 34. MESSAGE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY WITH THE VICTIMS OF MALARIA

*On the 4th of September 1935 His Highness the Maharaja, accompanied by Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bai and His Highness the Elayaraja, visited the malaria-stricken areas in Neyyattinkara in South Travancore, and on the 9th of September, His Highness the Maharaja issued the following message expressing his deep sympathy with the victims of malaria :*

I am glad to hear that a public meeting has been convened to express sympathy with the victims of malaria in South Travancore and to organise private charity in aid of the patients and their dependants. During my recent visit to some of the malaria centres, I was not only greatly touched by what I saw, but I have also ascertained the extent of the calamity and the magnitude of the task ahead. My Government will spare neither effort nor money to

grapple with the situation and to combat the epidemic as indeed they have already done. But there is still considerable room for private charity, and I feel confident it will be forthcoming in sufficient measure.

### 35. AT THE OPENING OF THE SRI CHITRALAYAM

*In performing the opening ceremony of the Sri Chitralayam (the State Picture Gallery) on the 25th of September 1935, His Highness the Maharaja made the following speech :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The function which it is my privilege to perform this afternoon is to me a source of intense gratification. It marks the fulfilment of a cherished desire to afford to my people opportunities for that æsthetic education which is one of the prime elements of culture. Painting, with the probable exception of music, has the largest attraction for the majority of persons, with its combined appeal to the sense of form and of colour.

Art galleries are not the creation of a day. They represent centuries of assiduous and patient collection by generations of art lovers.

This gallery is designed to be the nucleus of what may become an epitome of the best examples of Eastern art, and it is my hope that it will stimulate the artistic instincts so abundant in our country which has never lacked a pictorial tradition.

It is a matter for congratulation that Dr. Cousins,\* the well-known exponent of art and literature, has succeeded in assembling this collection of pictures from many places designed to include the various schools of modern painting in India. He has spared neither effort nor time in equipping this gallery with rare and representative specimens of pictures and colour prints, and I gladly take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him and my hope that this institution will continue to receive his fostering care.

Some pictures in the possession of my Government have been transferred to the gallery to give completeness to the underlying scheme of arrangement. A fine series of mural paintings

\* Dr. Kulapathi Jayaram Cousins.

has been secured for us, exhibiting world-famous specimens from Ajanta and the Bagh caves. A remarkable group of copies of mural paintings have been procured by the kindness of the Government of Cochin. We are indebted to the Kilimanoor Family for having generously handed over to the institution as a permanent loan a large number of pictures by the well-known Raja Revi Varma and other members of his talented family.

I trust that this picture gallery, with which I have gladly associated my name, will serve as an inspiration to future artists and provide solace and pleasure to lovers of art, that it will demonstrate to the world that Travancore which has, in the past, helped in the popularisation of the Puranic lore can make valuable contributions in the future, and that it will make more accessible our splendid mural paintings and frescoes. A word of tribute is due to those master craftsmen of the past whose names are unknown, because in their profound love for their work they failed to sign their names even on a panel. They

laboured patiently and devoutly in order to bequeath to posterity remarkable specimens of mural paintings which evoke our admiration and reverence. Let me hope Travancore which, in the Kathakali, has given at least one new art-form to the world, will evolve her own distinctive school of painting.

I have great pleasure in declaring the "Sri Chitralayam" open. May the blessings of God be showered on all who come to worship in this Temple of Art!

### 36. AT THE SCOUT RALLY, 1935 .

*His Highness made the following reply to an Address presented to him by the Travancore Boy Scouts at the Scout Rally held on the 26th of October 1935 in honour of His Highness's birthday :*

Mr. State Commissioner, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The congratulations and good wishes conveyed through you on the occasion of my birthday are specially welcome, coming as they do from those associated with an organisation in which I have always taken great interest and to which I attach much importance. It affords me sincere pleasure to meet once more the Cubs, Scouts and Rovers from all parts of the State and to realise the efforts made by the Head Quarters Council to arouse popular sympathy towards this beneficent Movement.

I see that you are somewhat disappointed over the response to the appeal that has been made; but I need hardly say that continued and

steady propaganda is always necessary to educate public opinion in regard to any idea like ours. You have referred to the financial stringency which has handicapped you in spreading the message of scouting throughout the districts, but it is important to remember that the financing of the Scout organisation and its spread should increasingly devolve upon non-official agencies and individuals although my Government have been, and will be, willing to afford all possible support. In many parts of the world Government support has been confined to a subvention towards the central organisation, and local efforts deal with the problem of financing local associations and activities. Not only in the matter of finance but as to policy and inspiration, it is my hope that scouting will increasingly become a people's movement in every sense and extend beyond the schools.

I am very glad that it has been possible to hand over to you the Oolambara premises which, I feel sure, will make an ideal camping ground.

It cannot be too often repeated that the Scout Movement possesses a special value for us, in India, by reason of its producing a healthy and open-air outlook towards men and things and also in generating a fellow-feeling amongst all races and communities which is so vital to citizenship.

Let me thank you once again for your message of goodwill and assure you that your problems and your welfare will always evoke sympathy and support from me.

### 37. AT THE BIRTHDAY BANQUET, 1935

*In response to the toast proposed by Lt. Col. W. A. M. Garstin, Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States, at a State Banquet at Kanakakunnu Palace on 28th of October 1935 on the occasion of His Highness's birthday, His Highness made the following speech :*

Col. Garstin, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In responding to the toast that has just been so kindly and felicitously proposed, I desire to thank you, Col. Garstin, for the congratulations and good wishes conveyed by you, and I wish also to thank you all for the manner in which the toast has been received. I am specially glad that it has been possible for Lady Chetwode\* to be with us to-day.

I can only say that it has been, and will be, my sole ambition to strive to the utmost

\*Lady Chetwode, wife of Field-Marshal Sir P. W. Chetwode.

of my capacity to work for the welfare of the people whose destinies are committed to my charge. I may add that I feel heartened in this task by the hope and confidence that the goodwill and sympathy of His Majesty and his representatives will, as ever in the past, be extended in future to me and to my dynasty.

38. AT THE STATE BANQUET GIVEN BY  
H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF BIKANER

*At a State Banquet given at Lalgarh Palace on the 23rd of March 1936 in honour of His Highness the Maharaja's visit to Bikaner, His Highness made the following speech responding to the toast proposed by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner :*

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I rise with sincere pleasure to respond to the toast that has been proposed by Your Highness with characteristic felicity, and I would ask Your Highness to accept the fervent thanks of my mother and myself for the wonderful hospitality that we have experienced in your capital, so full of historic memories of heroism and statesmanship. We have had the opportunity to see something of your Highness' State, and witness all that you have done for it, and I hope you will permit me

to offer a tribute to the single-minded devotion and unparalleled energy which have transformed your State and have improved its position in every respect. It is not given to many Rulers to convert portions of a desert into smiling fields, and to create prosperous communities out of nothing. It is no small achievement to have done all this, and at the same time to have demonstrated in your own person, in great crises and on crucial occasions, that military capacity and diplomatic skill in Cabinets and Conferences can co-exist with the highest traditions of a great Rajput Ruler.

My mother and myself have, for years, been proud to count ourselves amongst your friends, and it has been our cherished desire to visit Your Highness's State. We shall carry away with us the most delightful memories of our stay here. Our keen desire is that Your Highness, and the members of your family will honour us at no distant date with a visit to Travancore where the warmest of welcomes awaits you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have now very

great pleasure in asking you to drink to the long life, health and happiness of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner and his family, and to the prosperity of the State which is so dear to his heart.

39. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
THE KERALA RESIDENTS OF DELHI

*His Highness made the following reply to an Address presented to him by the people of Kerala resident in Delhi on the 29th of March 1936 at the Travancore House, New Delhi :*

Gentlemen,

It is a matter of sincere pleasure to my mother and myself to receive this expression of goodwill from the Malayali Residents of Delhi.

I am very glad that you are following the course of events in, and the progress made by, my State. All that I need say is that I have always tried to secure for Travancore the place that legitimately belongs to her in Indian Polity.

On behalf of my mother, I also thank you for the cordial terms in which you have spoken of her work in connection with the

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Women's Movement in India. Both of us feel heartened in our several tasks by the appreciation and goodwill of the people of Kerala, of which this Address is a symbol.

40. AT THE ALL-INDIA INDUSTRIAL  
EXHIBITION, DELHI

*His Highness the Maharaja made the following reply to an Address presented to him and Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bai by the Association for the Development of Swadeshi Industries on the occasion of Their Highnesses' visit to the All-India Industrial Exhibition, Delhi, on the 29th of March 1936 :*

Mr. President and Members of the Association for the Development of Swadeshi Industries,

It is with real pleasure that Her Highness, my mother, and I have come here to-day to see the Exhibition which is the outcome of your efforts towards the economic well-being of India. It is superfluous to emphasise the value of such exhibitions. To bring under one view the industrial possibilities which lie scattered over this vast land is a most useful

achievement deserving of all success, and we congratulate you, Mr. President, and those working with you towards this goal, on the results you have attained. We shall be greatly interested in looking round the stalls presently.

I am glad to hear what you say regarding the progress of Travancore in the industrial direction. All that I can say is that my State is trying to take its place in the matter not only of the development of the larger industries but of the equally important cottage and rural development, in the industrial sphere.

We thank you very much for the cordiality of the reception you have given to us and the sentiments of goodwill and appreciation you have expressed in your Address.

We wish you continued success.

41. AT THE FAREWELL BANQUET GIVEN  
TO THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE EARL AND  
THE COUNTESS OF WILLINGDON .

*On the eve of the departure of Their Excellencies the Earl and the Countess (now the Marquess and the Marchioness) of Willingdon from India, a Banquet was given in their honour by the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India at the Hotel Imperial, New Delhi, on the 14th of April 1936, and in proposing the toast to the health of the distinguished guests, His Highness the Maharaja, who presided on the occasion, made the following speech :*

Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I rise, on behalf of the assembled Princes of India, to propose the health of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon. I am fully conscious of the honour conferred on me by my brother Princes and realise that the task I have

undertaken is a very responsible one. That responsibility is happily lightened as I know that my subject evokes an enthusiastic unanimity of sentiment.

His Excellency's experiences and achievements have been unique in many respects; and so have been his contributions to public and social life. He was at the helm of affairs in two great Provinces in India; he presided over the senior Dominion in the Empire and did important work in such widely different spheres of activity as Geneva and Peking before he assumed the Viceroyalty of India which is one of the most exacting and one of the most exalted of offices under the British Crown.

When His Excellency took up the reins of office, everyone realised the gravity of the situation in India, but it was at the same time predicted that the statesmanship of Lord Willingdon and his human touch would enable him to solve the problems confronting the country. The prophecy has proved true, and it is needless for me to describe His Excellency's labours in the cause of stability and progress;

nor shall I attempt to narrate the long and distinguished services rendered by His Excellency which have recently elicited the warm tribute of the Marquess of Linlithgow. The Princes of India will, however, always remember Lord Willingdon's work as representing His Majesty in his relations with Indian States.

His Excellency has not regarded the Indian State as an anachronism or as a surviving relic that has no place in the world of to-day. Realising its innate vitality, he has seen that the institution is conformable to Indian traditions and can fulfil a real purpose. The identity of interests between His Majesty and his Government on the one hand and the States on the other and the importance of preserving the legitimate rights and privileges of the Rulers were enunciated authoritatively many years ago, and these were the considerations that underlay His Excellency's policy; but he has not been content with a static position. He has endeavoured, throughout his tenure of office, to confer an opportunity on Indian India and British India.

to combine together for the purpose of winning a new position for the country as a whole within the framework of the Empire. He has vividly realised that India is at the parting of ways and, undeterred by obstacles, he has worked with rare patience towards the ordered development of the country as a self-governing unit within the British Commonwealth — a unit of which His Excellency has always felt that the Order of Princes is a characteristic and important part, having a special contribution to make to the future.

The difference in size, population and resources of the numerous Indian States have been sometimes stressed; but it is not often realised that, despite these varieties, there are vital common interests, financial, economic and political, that unite all parts of this great sub-continent together, and must impel them to combined action in order to serve their joint interests. This aspect has ever been present before His Excellency, and he has never wearied in pleading for a concerted policy amongst the ruling Princes and their co-operation in

regard to the fashioning of the future policy of the country. During many years Lord Willingdon has been hard at work, insisting on the value of India to the Empire and of the Princes to India. The foundations of the structure of Indian Polity were laid by Queen Victoria and the building of the superstructure has been inaugurated on the advice of His Excellency by His late Majesty, whose passing away is universally deplored, whose gracious memory will be imperishable, and the example of whose life will ever be an inspiration and stimulus to the Princes and people of India.

His Excellency has been, in a very real sense, the head of Indian Society, and his genius for friendship and capacity to evoke loyal service have won for him the adherence of all classes of people, who have been witnesses to his fairness and chivalry, side by side with his frankness and sense of justice. In almost every phase of his life, His Excellency has had the companionship and active help of a personality, who has devoted her matchless energy to all matters that concern the welfare

and amenities of the masses and particularly to the problems intimately connected with the education and improvement of the conditions of the women of this country. What has been most distinctive in our honoured guests has been their very human quality co-existing with the inimitable faculty of putting people at their ease. Not many days ago, the cricketing experiences, not only of the Viceroy but of Lady Willingdon, were recounted by His Excellency himself and, as on the cricket field, so in the great game of life, their sportsmanship and their essential humanity, evinced in a keen and living interest in all that concerns the people around them, have been the secret of their success and their unbounded popularity with their innumerable friends who are to be found amongst all classes and communities. These qualities and their anxiety to bring together the people of different races and religions on a common platform have led to striking results, not only in the field of normal administration but on many critical occasions on which they were supremely successful in

organising activities to deal with vast problems like those occasioned by the calamities in Behar and Quetta, or those relating to the beneficent programme undertaken in connection with His late Majesty's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. We hope and believe that it will be given to Their Excellencies to serve the Empire in yet many more distinguished walks of life ; but, wherever they are, we feel sure that they will have a warm corner in their hearts for the country of their adoption and for the Order to which we belong.

Your Hignesses, Ladies and Gentlemen, I give the toast of Their Excellencies and on behalf of everyone present here to-day, I wish them long life and an abounding measure of happiness and prosperity.

## 42. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF TRAVANCORE

*An Address was presented to His Highness the Maharaja by representatives of the people of Travancore on the 25th of June 1936 at the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, on His Highness's return from Delhi after being invested with the insignia of Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and in reply to this His Highness made the following speech :*

Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar,\* Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has afforded me sincere pleasure to receive this Address presented on behalf of the people of Travncore of whose cordial and loyal attachment to me and my House I am deeply sensible.

You have sought to review the progress made by the State during the last five years and

\* Dewan Bahadur V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar.

have referred not only to measures taken by my Government to ameliorate the condition of the people, but to the attempts made to link up the State with the rest of the world and enable it to win its legitimate place in Indian Polity in the material and cultural spheres.

In the conditions that obtain here, the relief of economic distress and unemployment, and the regeneration of the backward and depressed communities are to no small extent dependent on the adoption of up-to-date methods of agricultural and marketing enterprise, of a carefully devised scheme of industrialisation suited to our environment and aptitude, and the active stimulation of our external trade which, I am glad to observe, has been showing signs of recovery.

Success in such a programme needs a study of conditions abroad, contacts with the activities of the outside world and willingness to learn from every source. It is an encouraging feature that there is a widespread recognition of the need for concerted action on these lines.

I may add that on the other hand nothing has been so vividly brought home to me as the imperative necessity of acquainting the world not only with the scenic attractions of Travancore, but with its arts and crafts, its special culture and its possibilities.

It has therefore been a matter of great satisfaction to me that during the past few months I was able to meet many leaders of public, industrial and commercial life, who are gradually becoming interested in our State and its potentialities.

I am very glad that I had the opportunity of personally bidding good-bye to the retiring Viceroy and the Marchioness of Willingdon, who have been such tried friends of my House and of making the acquaintance of Their Excellencies the Marquess and Marchioness of Linlithgow.

Personal touch with the chief Representative of the Paramount Power with whom Travancore's relations have been traditionally close and friendly, and the knowledge and realisation of our problems on the part of

those charged with the execution of all-India policies have always been valuable, but at this juncture, when crucial problems affecting the future of the States are pending solution, they are indispensable.

On behalf of my mother, I wish to acknowledge with lively satisfaction the graceful tribute paid to her work on behalf of the women of India, especially as the President of the All-India Women's Conference.

I accept your Address with heartfelt gratification and fervently hope that the internal prosperity and external prestige of Travancore will be the objects of unceasing endeavour on the part of all whom you represent, as they are my constant preoccupation and ambition.

#### 43. THE TEMPLE-ENTRY PROCLAMATION

*The following epoch-making Proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja was issued on the auspicious occasion of the twenty-fifth birthday of His Highness, which fell on the 12th of November 1936 :*

Profoundly convinced of the truth and validity of our religion, believing that it is based on divine guidance and on an all-comprehending toleration, knowing that in its practice it has throughout the centuries adapted itself to the needs of changing times, solicitous that none of our Hindu subjects should, by reason of birth, caste or community, be denied the consolations and solace of the Hindu faith, we have decided and hereby declare, ordain and command that, subject to such rules and conditions as may be laid down and imposed by us for preserving their proper atmosphere and maintaining their rituals and observances, there

should henceforth be no restriction placed on any Hindu by birth or religion on entering or worshipping at the temples controlled by us and our Government.

44. AT THE STATE BANQUET GIVEN TO  
HIS EXCELLENCY LORD ERSKINE  
AND LADY MARJORIE ERSKINE

*A State Banquet was given in honour of His Excellency Lord Erskine, Governor of Madras, and Lady Marjorie Erskine on the occasion of their visit to Travancore at Kanakakunnu Palace, Trivandrum, on the 13th of November 1936, and in proposing the toast to their health, His Highness the Maharaja made the following speech :*

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In rising to propose the health of His Excellency and Lady Marjorie Erskine, my first and very pleasant duty is to thank them for kindly responding to my invitation to visit Travancore and to thank His Excellency most sincerely for the generous manner in which he has proposed my health. I extend to both of them my heartiest welcome, and

my welcome is also extended to the other friends whom I see around me, who have accepted my invitation, some of whom like Sir Frank Noyce have come from afar to participate in these celebrations. I must refer especially to two of our guests, Col. Garstin and Mrs. Garstin, who are shortly leaving us and to both of whom I wish *bon voyage*. I am much indebted to Col. Garstin for his uniform assistance and valuable help during his short tenure of office of Agent to the Governor-General.

His Excellency and Lady Marjorie Erskine have now seen some of the centres of our civic life and must also have observed our diversified countryside of which we are very proud, comprising, as it does, lofty hill and rushing stream, backwater and sea and rich and verdant vegetation pervading the landscape, and comprising also what is our special characteristic, a succession of houses and gardens and fields and schools and temples and churches. They will shortly adventure in search of big game amongst the mountains and lakes situated

on our boundary, and I wish them the best of sport and, what I know they value more than a "great shoot," namely, the sight of wild life at close quarters which can be obtained in our sanctuary.

They have come here not on business bent but on a holiday, and I hope they will get the rest and recreation which they need after the strenuous work of preparing for the introduction of the new scheme of Provincial Government. As neighbours, Travancore and Madras have many points in common and many joint interests, and also like all good neighbours they have their little differences which, after the inevitable reconciliation, always leave them better friends than ever before. These common interests are certain to be better advanced now and especially hereafter, under the new order of things, if the Head of the Madras Administration makes a first hand acquaintance with the people and the possibilities of Travancore. I hope both of them will carry away pleasing memories of their short sojourn amongst us and that

Madras and Travancore in the future as in the past may work in mutual co-operation to their mutual advantage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I drink to the health and happiness of His Excellency the Governor of Madras and Lady Marjorie Erskine.

#### 45. AT THE SCOUT RALLY, 1936

*His Highness the Chief Scout gave the following reply to an Address presented by the Travancore Boy Scouts at the Scout Rally held on the 14th of November 1936 in honour of His Highness's twenty-fifth birthday :*

Mr. State Commissioner, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has afforded me much pleasure once again to meet the representatives of the Scout Movement in Travancore assembled in Rally and to receive their felicitations and good wishes on my birthday.

You have outlined your activities, and your ranks have shown a satisfactory increase in number although the total of 3000 for the whole State is by no means commensurate with the importance of the Movement or the needs of the country. It is gratifying to learn that you have been paying special attention to

quality rather than numbers and have laid down strict conditions for recruitment and training. Your scheme for scout instruction in the vernacular should be of great use in carrying your message far and wide.

I am afraid too many young men, trained in the years at school in the art and practice of scouting, forget all that they have learnt by the time they enter the colleges, and I am frankly disappointed at the insufficient response shown to the Rover side of the Movement which is of the utmost value for the future of the country. Your new camp site whose advantage, I am glad to see, you appreciate to the full, will, I hope, ensure the augmentation of the Rovers as well as of the other branches of the Movement.

As I have stated on several occasions, one of the basic principles of the Scout organisation is that it should be really popular and non-official. So far the people at large have not fully realised what scouting can mean in the way of nation-building, but with the growing sense of solidarity and union in the State, it is

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my earnest hope that the people in the villages and cities will sympathise and co-operate with the leaders of the Movement and make it the comprehensive and efficient factor of progress that it is intended to be.

I thank you once more for your cordial and loyal greetings and wish you all-round progress and prosperity.

#### 46. MESSAGE TO THE KERALA SAHITYA PARISHAD

*The following Message of His Highness the Maharaja was read by Sachivottama Sir. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. I. E., while performing the opening ceremony of the eleventh session of the Kerala Sahitya Parishad at Trivandrum on the 28th of December 1936 :*

It affords me great pleasure to send my greetings and good wishes to the eleventh session of the Kerala Sahitya Parishad that is assembling to-day. The purpose of the Parishad is not only to preserve but to augment the magnificent heritage in Malayalam and Sanskrit which constitutes Kerala literature. The task that the Parishad has set before itself is worthy of our highest efforts, and I wish the meetings of the Parishad complete success.

47. MESSAGE TO THE ALL-INDIA  
SCOUT JAMBOREE, DELHI

*The following Message from His Highness the Chief Scout of Travancore was sent to the All-India Scout Jamboree held at Delhi in February 1937 :*

I am happy that a Contingent of Scouts from Travancore is taking part in the All-India Jamboree. This assemblage of Scouts gathering in the presence of the Founder of the Movement will, I feel sure, help to advance Scout ideals throughout India.

#### 48. REPLY TO THE CIVIC ADDRESS FROM THE MADRAS CORPORATION

*A Civic Address was presented to His Highness the Maharaja by the Madras Corporation at the Ripon Buildings on the 17th of February 1937 on the occasion of His Highness' visit to Madras ; and to this His Highness gave the following reply :*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my mother and myself, I offer our heartfelt thanks to you, Mr. Mayor, and to the Councillors and Aldermen of the Madras Corporation for the warm welcome that has been accorded to us and the Civic Address which we have just received at your hands.

We are deeply sensible of the honour done to us at the instance of the premier Municipal Body in the Presidency of Madras

with which my State is interlinked in many ways — cultural, historical and commercial. We note with much pleasure the generous references made by you to the progress achieved in Travancore and to the efforts made for the advancement of my people.

We specially appreciate what you have said regarding the important step recently taken by me in promulgating the Temple-Entry Proclamation whose object is to emphasise the equality of all communities in the sight of God and whose results will, I trust, justify our expectations.

We wish you and the City of Madras all prosperity and complete success in the sphere of local self-government.

49. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
THE SUGUNA VILASA SABHA, MADRAS

*His Highness gave the following reply to an Address presented by the members of the Suguna Vilasa Sabha on the 1st of March 1937 :*

Members of the Suguna Vilasa Sabha,

It has given us great pleasure to be present amongst you to-day and to witness once again the exhibition of superior histrionic talent by the premier amateur dramatic organisation in South India. I thank you sincerely for the cordiality of your welcome and for the spontaneity with which you have felicitated me on the recent events in my State.

I am equally glad to learn that the Sabha will soon be moving into a house of its own where, I am sure, it will continue to foster its high and noble ideals and aspirations.

I wish the Sabha all success and prosperity and pray that it will grow from strength to strength.

## 50. REPLY TO THREE MADRAS ADDRESSES

*His Highness made the following reply to Addresses presented to him at the Travancore House on the 5th of March 1937, by the Arundhateya Maha Sabha, Madras, the Sri Narayana Mission, Mambalam, and the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Royapettah :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been a source of much satisfaction to me to have received a most hearty welcome on the occasion of the visit to Madras of my mother and myself and the members of my family, and we are very pleased to have been the recipients of many marks of cordiality during our stay here. I feel thankful to the members and sympathisers of the Sri Narayana Mission and to the representatives of the Arundhateyas of South India as well as to the managements of the Harijan Sevak Sangh and Harijan Industrial School for their expression of appreciation and their congratulations. All

these addresses are at one in emphasising the significance and welcoming the promulgation of the recent Proclamation. Its object is to manifest that equality in the sight of the Creator and that tolerance which are amongst the fundamental tenets of the Hindu faith and which have been evidenced in the life and precepts of successive teachers from Sankara and Ramanuja down to Kabir and Nanak, Chaithanya and Swami Vivekananda and Sri Narayana Guru. Another equally important purpose was to bring about the consolidation of our community and the growth of self-respect among all its members as well as the spirit of harmonious comradeship with people professing other faiths. The country-wide demonstrations which this step has evoked have shown that throughout India the spirit of unity and fellowship is abroad.

Both my mother and myself thank you sincerely for the sentiments contained in your Addresses and the manner in which they have been presented. We wish you all success in your several spheres of useful work.

51. REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM  
THE KERALA RESIDENTS OF MADRAS

*To an Address presented to His Highness the Maharaja on the 5th of March 1937 by the people of Kerala resident in Madras His Highness gave the following reply :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad to receive the expressions of your welcome and greetings as well as your congratulations with regard to the Proclamation relating to the entry into temples of all Hindu communities. My mother and myself wish to thank you for them and to say that we are particularly gratified to receive the Address which has been presented on behalf of the representatives of the Malayali community resident in Madras, who comprise, I understand, not only the subjects of my State but persons belonging to British Malabar and Cochin. As the seat of uninterrupted Hindu culture,

Kerala has both the right and the duty to fulfil the message of our faith and to bring about social and religious unity. It is a matter for great satisfaction that you realise that this unity is wholly consistent with that tolerance towards other beliefs and creeds which has been the prime characteristic of Hinduism and Kerala in particular.

We thank you once again and wish you all prosperity.

52. MESSAGE TO THE ALL-KERALA  
INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

*The following Message from His Highness the Maharaja was read by Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. I. E. at the opening of the All-Kerala Inter-Religious Students' Conference at Alwaye on the 13th of May 1937 :*

I have heard with great pleasure of the proposal to hold an All-Kerala Inter-Religious Students' Conference at Alwaye. I hope its deliberations will tend towards the promotion of mutual comprehension and harmony which are the great needs of to-day. I wish the session success.

53. REPLY TO THE CIVIC ADDRESS FROM  
THE COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

*The Municipal Council of Colombo gave a civic reception to His Highness the Maharaja on the 23rd of June 1937 while His Highness's was on his way back to Travancore from his tour in Java and Bali, and to the Address which was presented to him His Highness gave the following reply :*

Mr. Mayor, Members of the Municipal Council of Colombo, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The civic reception and Address of which I have just now been the recipient, have afforded me much gratification. I am touched by the cordiality and goodwill which have marked my halts in your beautiful city whose international position and importance are matters of legitimate pride.

I have listened with satisfaction to the appreciative references made in your Address to

the step recently taken in Travancore with regard to Temple-Entry. I thank you heartily for the kind sentiments to which you have given expression, and I wish your Council continued success in the promotion of its civic aspirations.

#### 54. AT THE BIRTHDAY BANQUET, 1937

*His Highness the Maharaja made the following speech responding to the toast proposed by Mr. C. P. Skrine I. C. S., O. B. E., Resident, Madras States, at the State Banquet given in connection with His Highness's twenty-sixth birthday at Kanakakunnu Palace on the 2nd of November 1937 :*

Mr. Skrine, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot thank you adequately for the warmth and great friendliness of the speech with which you have been good enough to propose my health.

Although in your modesty you have spoken of mixed feelings, yet no one in this hall or outside it will question your right to look back with satisfaction on a varied and eventful career. And coming from you, the remarks you have made have an added significance.

On an occasion like this it is meet that one should take stock of the past in order to plan for the future. It is a heartening thought that the measures that have been undertaken by me for the welfare of my subjects have elicited the approval of the representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor with whom and whose dynasty the Rulers of Travancore have been on terms of unbroken loyalty and friendship for over two centuries.

My endeavour has been to work for the amelioration of the lot of all classes of my subjects and to enable them to rise to the full height of their stature in every sphere of life and to promote their peace and prosperity. The Constitutional Reforms, The Temple Entry Proclamation and the University Scheme are different expressions of the same underlying aim, and I am glad that they have been well received both within and without my State.

In associating myself with your feeling reference to my mother I may say with you that I deeply value her guidance to which I

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owe more than I can express.

As for your handsome tribute to my Dewan, I shall only say that I endorse your opinion and look forward with confidence to the achievement of those programmes which he is so loyally carrying out.

Let me conclude by rendering my sincerest thanks to you for your greetings and good wishes and to the assembled guests for the manner in which they have responded to the toast.

## 55. AT THE SCOUT RALLY, 1937

*His Highness made the following reply to the Address presented to him by the members of the Travancore Boy Scouts Association at the Scout Rally held on the 4th of November 1937 in honour of His Highness's twenty-sixth birthday:*

Mr. Chief Commissioner, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with sincere pleasure that I have received the felicitations and good wishes conveyed by you on behalf of the Scout Organisation on the occasion of my birthday. I realise that the Movement has been doing valuable work during the past year and that the propaganda to which I alluded in 1935 as being essential for the advance of the Movement has borne fruit. The present, however, marks a turning point in the history of Scouting in the State as, in consonance with the wishes and aspirations of the vast majority of those

interested in the Movement, its re-organisation has been carried out on the lines indicated in your Address. Let me urge on this occasion that the essence of Scouting is its universality; and the emphasis on an autonomous organisation and on the need to make the Movement fit into the national and local scheme of things is not and should not be a sign or symbol of exclusiveness but, on the other hand, should signalise a new period of intensive work correlated to our own special needs, but without ignoring the world-wide character of Scouting.

With you, I hope, that the youth of Travancore will, in addition to making themselves efficient Scouts and useful citizens, also strive intensively for those larger ideals of helpfulness and harmony which characterise the Movement for which Lord Baden-Powell worked so hard from the inception of the Movement.

I wish you all success in your activities and trust that the Movement will arouse and maintain the sympathy and support of the

people at large which are indispensable to its growth on right lines.

Let me thank you for your message of good wishes and assure you that your problems and your welfare will always evoke my sympathy and support.

56. REPLY TO ADDRESSES  
PRESENTED AT VIZAGAPATAM

*His Highness the Maharaja made the following joint reply to the Addresses presented to him by the Vizagapatam Municipality, the Vizagapatam District Board, the Adi Andhra Association and the Andhra Harijan Provincial Board on the 1st of December 1937 :*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank the President and members of the District Board heartily for their congratulations on the Degree which is being conferred on me by the Andhra University which seeks to continue the ancient tradition in Andhradesa of scholarship and culture. I recall with pleasure my previous visit to your District and particularly my short but informative contact with public administration as carried on by your Board. Your generous references to

myself and to the various developments in the legislative, social, cultural and religious aspects of the life of the people of my State not only gratify but encourage me for the future. I trust that the work of your Board will increasingly conduce to the service of the people.

The warm welcome that I have received from the important and growing Municipality of Vizagapatam has specially gratified me. I am not an entire stranger to your area, and I have watched with satisfaction the development of the harbour which has carried the name of Vizagapatam to distant places. In times long past, adventurous individuals sailed from this coast towards the sunrise and established trade relationships with the great islands that lie beyond the Bay of Bengal. Their merchandise comprised not only things of beauty and of utility but they carried with them spiritual aspiration and an artistic skill that have left their reminders in buildings and works of art that are still wonderful in their appeal. I thank you sincerely for your kind words of

appreciation, and wish your Municipality all prosperity.

To the members of the Andhra Provincial Board, my thanks go out for your words of welcome and for your cordial appreciation of such service as I have been able to render to a large body of the population of my State by making the consolation and stimulus of worship accessible to them. I am much interested in what you have told me regarding the ideals and work of the Harijan Sevak Sangh in the Andhra-desa, and specially appreciate its attention to education which is a matter of fundamental importance if imparted on right lines. I wish the Sangh all success in its ameliorative efforts.

On behalf of Her Highness, my mother, as well as for myself I offer the Adi-Andhras our cordial thanks for your Address. I appreciate with special satisfaction your reference to the Temple-Entry Proclamation as a recognition and expression of truth and human dignity. Your reference to my ancestor, Sri Kulasekhara, recalls an illustrious

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memory. But it equally brings to me a reminder of the responsibility of such ancestry. I can only trust that, by the act of simple truth and justice which you so warmly praise, I may not only have opened the Temples of my State to all of the ancient Hindu faith, but also helped to open the doors of all Hindu hearts. Again, I thank you for your appreciative Address and wish the good work of your Association all success.

I have received your Addresses with great pleasure. I appreciate the kind sentiments you have given expression to, and I thank you and wish you continued progress and happiness.

## 57. AT THE ANDHRA UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

*At the Andhra University Convocation held on the 2nd of December 1937, His Highness the Maharaja made the following speech on receiving the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature :*

Mr. Chancellor,\*

I greatly value the distinction that the Andhra University has conferred on me and the terms of generous appreciation in which your Orator has referred to the act of social and religious justice which it has been given to me to initiate in my State.

Remote from Waltair as Travancore is, there have been between the two regions, from the days of the Vijayanagar Empire, numerous cultural and other contacts, and it is my desire

\* His Excellency Lord Erskine, Governor of Madras.

and my hope that the Andhra and the Travancore Universities may create new ones and co-operate with each other in furtherance of common ends and for the promotion of common educational ideals.

I offer my sincere thanks to the Chancellor and the authorities of the Andhra University for the honour done to me.

58. AT THE NINTH SESSION OF  
THE ALL-INDIA ORIENTAL CONFERENCE

*In declaring the Ninth Session of the All-India Oriental Conference open, His Highness the Maharaja delivered the following speech on the 20th of December 1937 at the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum :*

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with genuine gratification that I proceed to open the Ninth Session of the All-India Oriental Conference whose delegates have assembled in such large numbers within the capital of my State.

In according my hearty welcome to the delegates and visitors to Srivardhanapuri, as this city was named long ago, it is needless to remind this learned audience of the storied origin of my conch-shaped country which, as the Puranas tell us, was won by Parasurama as a spoil from the sea and which, with its combination of mountain and creek, forest and

field and ocean, constitutes an epitome of nature. Cape Comorin at one end of our land is not only a meeting place of the three seas whose depths witness the glories of sunrise and sunset, but is a spot hallowed by the spirit of the maiden Goddess praying for her chosen Lord whose abode is on Himalaya. She symbolises alike the eternal quest of the human soul and the essential unity of India, both physical and psychological. Not alone Kanya Kumari, however, but Suchindram, associated with the life story of Atri and Anasuya, Anantasayanam, the dwelling place of Padmanabha, Varkalai, known to all the Hindu world as Janardhanam, Vaikom, connected with the history of the great Bhakta, Vyagra-pada, and numerous other places consecrated by the lives of Sages and Seers, make ours a land of tradition and pilgrimage. Religious architecture, art and drama amongst us have been a true expression of the science as well as the philosophy of the people. We are justly proud that our country has been the sojourn of Agastya in the South, and contains in its

northern confines the birth-place of one of the epoch-making moulders of world-thought, Sri Sankaracharya.

Not solely in the world of speculation, but in political and commercial history, has Travancore taken a notable part. Quilon has given its name to the era which is in general use throughout Kerala. My great ancestor Martanda Varma's dedication of the State to the deity after conquest and consolidation has been a landmark in Indian chronicles. The ideal of a simple and self-dedicated life and the pursuit of learning have, from time immemorial, been the characteristics of our people. I shall only make a passing reference to the Chera King who, according to Puranic and early Sangam literature, is supposed to have supplied food impartially to both the warring clans on the field of Kurukshetra, and our family motto recalls this incident. One of my forbears is known to scholars as the real hero of the Tamil epic, "Silappadhikaram." Amongst those who are responsible for and chronicled in the Tamil scripture, "The

Prabhandam," is another ancestor, Kulasekhara Perumal, who enjoys the privilege of inclusion amongst the Vaishnavite Alwars; and from his day to the time of Swathi Tirunal who was not only an author but a musician and a composer of admitted eminence, there has prevailed a tradition not only of secular achievement, but of devotion to the things of the intellect and spirit—a tradition which has been continuous in a country that has fortunately escaped the troubles and turmoils of foreign conquest.

Egypt and Syria, Greece and Rome, Arabia, Portugal, the Netherlands, France and England have exchanged with us their products and their cultures. During all these many centuries of foreign contact, we may, I think, claim that ours has been a policy of comprehension, of hospitality and of amity; and the recent Temple-Entry Proclamation is the sequel and the logical outcome of these ideals.

This Conference itself is an ample manifestation of the catholicity of true culture. Oriental studies commenced with the

compilation of codes and laws necessitated by the exigencies of administration, but from the time of Sir William Jones, and Colebrook, and Warren Hastings, study of Vedic texts and of classical literature has been systematic and fruitful. Controversy and doubts then arose as to the value of oriental studies, but, fortunately, Goethe, Schopenhauer Max Muller and a long succession of brilliant authors and scholars kept alive the spirit of oriental research. England, France, Italy, Scandinavia, Germany, Russia and America helped in their several ways, and the results of their labours have been amongst the formative influences of the world of to-day.

India can never forget its debt of gratitude to those lovers of learning in the West who, when India was in danger of neglecting its own scholarship and its literature, gave a stimulus to oriental learning. This debt India is repaying in the best possible manner by bringing into existence a line of Indian scholars who, in the fields of antiquities and history, of Dravidian and Sanskrit

philology and literature, of law and economics and polity, in the intensive study of the art of India and Outer-India, are co-operating in the recreation of the mind and soul of our country. A great deal still remains to be accomplished in the collection of art treasures, of manuscripts, and of folklore, and above all in the welding of the new learning and the old, so as to preserve the unforgettable heritage of the Pandit and to utilise his hereditary aptitudes and traditions in aid of modern scholarship.

It would, however, be correct to add that the thoughts enshrined in our literature, both Sanskritic and Dravidian, and the felicities of their setting and diction and the range and comprehensiveness of our philosophies have not yet been fully appreciated by the Western world. But it is gratifying to see that there is an increasing appreciation of the value and significance of Indian scholarship, and the recent recognition awarded to a thinker like Professor Radhakrishnan is a satisfactory feature. It is a matter of special pride to us that the

Syriac, the Catholic, the Protestant and Muslim faiths and philosophies are cultivated in this State with zeal and in mutual peace, and I am glad to see that all aspects of eastern art and learning are represented in this gathering.

For many years under the auspices of this State, publications have been issued bringing to light rare manuscripts and the productions of many forgotten authors, including the great Bhasa. A vast field of research is still open to the orientalist even if he should confine himself to the history and antiquities and the arts and sciences of Malabar in general and of Travancore in particular. In addition to our own archives and libraries, the records of the Nestorians of Syria and of the museums and collections in the Dutch, Portuguese and French countries and the inexhaustible resources of the British museums are bound to yield fresh treasures, and I fervently trust that the members of the Conference will be stimulated by their visit to this part of the world to bestow attention on the history, the archæology and the literature of a country which is



manners and sects. It is with the consciousness of that unity and with a desire to perfect it that I feel sure this Conference will function. In discharging its work, this body of accredited scholars has the great privilege of the presidency of a savant,\* who is not only actively associated with one of the greatest centres of learning in the world, but whose labours in the cause of archæology and of Buddhist, Tibetan and Nepalese studies, have been as conspicuous as his philosophical researches and his profound acquaintance with the classical literature of India.

I have great pleasure in declaring this Conference open, and may I be allowed on this occasion to repeat the sacred invocation:

“तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु-  
माविद्धिपाचहै” †

\* Dr. F. W. Thomas, M. A., C. I. E., Boden Professor of Sanskrit, University of Oxford.

† “May our scholarship be illustrious and may there be no rivalry and hatred amongst us.”

59. MESSAGE READ AT THE CENTENARY  
CELEBRATION OF THE TRIVANDRUM  
OBSERVATORY

*The following Message of His Highness the Maharaja was read by Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. I. E. while presiding over the Centenary Celebrations of the Trivandrum Observatory on the 23rd of December 1937 :*

I am very pleased to hear of the celebration of the Centenary of the Trivandrum Observatory. The fact that this institution, founded a hundred years ago, has maintained its progressive contact with the scientific world is a matter of real satisfaction, and I wish the institution and the celebration every success.

60. MESSAGE TO THE CONFERENCE OF  
THE ALL-INDIA COUNCIL OF THE FEDER-  
ATION OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

*The following Message of His Highness the Maharaja was read by Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar at the opening of the Sixth Session of the Conference of the All-India Council of the Federation of International Fellowships on the 27th of December 1937 :*

I am happy to hear of the assemblage at Trivandrum of the Conference of the Council of International Fellowships whose aims and endeavours deserve to be zealously promoted and sustained especially at this juncture of the world's history. I send the Conference my best wishes for a successful session.



## APPENDIX

### 1. ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF TRAVANCORE, 1931 \*

May it please Your Most Gracious Highness,

On this auspicious occasion of Your Highness's Investiture with ruling powers, the hearts of all your subjects, over five millions in number, in every town and village throughout Travancore, are filled with genuine feelings of joy, thankfulness and loyalty, and are raised to heaven in fervent prayer that Your Highness may be long blessed with health and strength to rule over this ancient land, for the service of which Your Highness has consecrated your life.

We feel grateful that Your Highness should have consented to accept an address from your subjects on the occasion of your accession to power and should have agreed to receive it in person. On behalf of the people of Travancore, we, who have assembled here to-day, beg leave to assure Your Highness of our deep

\* Address from the people of Travancore presented on the 9th of November 1931 on the occasion of His Highness' assumption of ruling powers.

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loyalty and attachment to your throne and person. The loyalty of the Travancorean to the Ruling House is no ephemeral feeling, but a deep-seated emotion, an instinctive sentiment woven into the very fabric of his being. Your Highness's illustrious predecessor, Sri Mulam Thirunal, by his devotion to duty, steady endeavour and continued vigilance, extended over thirty-nine years, in the cause of the welfare and happiness of his subjects, coupled with his simplicity of life, succeeded in securing the lasting love of the people. May we be permitted to assure Your Highness that you inherit in full measure that love in the hearts of all Travancoreans?

When, nineteen years ago, the welcome news was announced that an heir was born to the throne of Travancore, there was a great awakening of joy and hope throughout the State, and to-day Your Highness is to us the perfect fulfilment of those early hopes and desires.

We consider it our good fortune that, from your birth as heir to the throne, Your Highness has been surrounded with influences which are to redound to the welfare of Travancore. In addition to the fond and devoted care your cultured mother has been bestowing on your upbringing, Your Highness has received an education and a training befitting the Ruler of an enlightened and progressive State. At the

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present day, when India is contemplating a Federation of Provinces and States, we are happy that Your Highness has travelled wide and established contacts and friendships which will be of use to Your Highness in the arduous task of administration. It is fortunate that a cultured mind, responsive to the influence of the time-spirit and capable of grasping the problems of the age, should control the future destinies of Travancore. Thanks to the educational policy of your predecessors, your subjects are qualified to co-operate with Your Highness in your endeavour to satisfy their aspirations and advance their interests. We feel confident that the inspiring example of Sri Mulam Thirunal of happy memory would serve as a sure guide and lead Your Highness to higher achievements and greater glory.

May God Almighty grant the heartfelt prayer of Your Highness's people that Your Highness's reign may be long and abundantly blessed with peace, prosperity and happiness !

We beg to subscribe ourselves,  
May it please Your Most Gracious Highness,  
Your Highness's devoted and loyal Subjects,  
The People of Travancore.

2. H. E. THE EARL OF WILLINGDON'S  
SPEECH AT THE STATE BANQUET,  
TRIVANDRUM, 1933. \*

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me thank you very gratefully for the charming terms in which you have welcomed my wife and myself to your State, and for the generous references which Your Highness has made to the value of such public service as it has been our privilege to have been engaged in during past years. With all that you have said as to my wife's activities, I most fully and cordially agree, and for myself, I can but say that I have been grateful indeed for the opportunities that have presented themselves to me of doing public service for my Sovereign for many years, during the course of which I have made many abiding friendships in various parts of the British Empire.

Our visit here recalls to my mind the occasion when we came here as the guests of His late Highness, your predecessor, who ruled over the State for long years and was universally beloved and respected by all who knew him.

\* Speech delivered by H. E. The Earl (now the Marquess) of Willingdon in response to the toast proposed by His Highness at the State Banquet given in honour of the Viceregal Visit on the 10th of December 1933.

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And now it is our privilege to be the guests of Your Highness who has only recently succeeded to the duties and responsibilities of your great position. I have seen Your Highness grow up to manhood under the careful guidance of Her Highness, your mother, and I must congratulate you warmly on the interest and zeal which you have already shown in your desire to forward the progress and betterment of your people.

Your Highness has quoted this evening in the course of your remarks the historical saying, "Delhi dur ast", to denote the geographical remoteness of Travancore from the centre of Government of India. It cannot be denied that in a purely geographical sense, this phrase is peculiarly true of Trivandrum, and although the disadvantages of distance are rapidly being overcome, largely by the development of Aviation, it must, I think, be admitted, that for the present, the distance of Travancore from the seat of Government does constitute some material obstacle to personal relations. But, in this regard, I cordially welcome and reciprocate the sentiment expressed by Your Highness to the effect that some mutual ties of confidence and goodwill annihilate mere physical distance.

I have listened with great pleasure to Your Highness' expressions of loyalty and devotion to

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His Majesty the King-Emperor. From my long acquaintance with the House of Travancore, I can confidently assert that the loyalty of Travancore Ruling Family is proverbial and needs no verbal embellishment from me, but I keenly appreciate the fact that Your Highness' recent contact with our beloved Sovereign and his Consort has warmed and coloured that traditional loyalty which Travancore has always shown towards the British Crown.

I was greatly interested to hear from Your Highness of the various activities in regard to your State in which you have been engaged during the first two years of your rule. In the first place, let me congratulate you very sincerely upon the appointment of a Public Service Committee which will afford to all classes of Your Highness' subjects an equal opportunity of serving in the administration of your State. I have no hesitation in saying that I regard this as a statesmanlike and farseeing policy. Travancore, like many administrations, not only in India, but throughout the world, is feeling the reaction caused by the impact of modern democratic ideas upon an old culture and the old order of things. Communities which have hitherto taken small part in public affairs — however contentedly they may have lived — are now aspiring to a greater share in the administrative and social activities, but I am convinced that Your Highness' pronouncement which will no

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doubt shortly be implemented, will go far to remove any misunderstanding in this connection among certain sections of Your Highness' subjects, and I should like to take this opportunity of stressing the need for all classes and communities, to cast aside suspicion and mistrust, and to co-operate with Your Highness in your laudable endeavour to promote equality of opportunity throughout the State. Those of Your Highness' subjects who have been so ill-advised as to abstain from participation in the recent constitutional changes should bear in mind that political and social development is a process of slow growth which would only be hindered by sudden and sweeping changes calculated to upset an order of things which has gradually developed through many long years.

I am fully alive to the difficulty of finding suitable employment for the large number of young men who nowadays pass through our Universities and Colleges, and it is probable that this problem is nowhere more acute than in Travancore where the general standard of education is so high. I was therefore particularly gratified to learn that Your Highness is fully alive to the necessity of assisting this problem by the policy of industrial development which Your Highness outlined in your speech.

I understand that Your Highness is being good enough to ask me, during the course of my visit, to

lay the foundation stone of a building which will house the new Legislature brought into being by Your Highness. Travancore has, in the matter of constitutional reforms, always moved in the van of progress, and I shall watch with sympathy and interest Your Highness' efforts to ensure a closer association of your people with your Government.

In conclusion, I would like once more to congratulate Your Highness on the keen and courageous manner in which you are carrying out your heavy responsibilities. It is true that you have only exercised your ruling powers for the last two years, but your record of achievement and your programme mapped out for the future is one which would be a credit to a Ruler of many years' standing. I look forward with hope to a future in which the State of Travancore will not only enjoy increasing internal prosperity but will play a part worthy of its status in the great Federation of States and Provinces which is to direct in the future the affairs of this great country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink with me to the health, happiness and prosperity of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

3. ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF  
TRAVANCORE, 1936 \*

May it please Your Most Gracious Highness,

On this happy and memorable occasion of Your Highness's return after being invested with the insignia of Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, we, Your Highness's loyal and devoted subjects, beg to offer Your Highness our warmest and most respectful felicitations. We rejoice that Your Highness is the youngest Indian Ruler to win such a high distinction. It is remarkable that, within a short period, Your Highness has been able to effect a new orientation of life and outlook which has stirred the imagination of the people of Travancore, and aroused the interest and attention of the outside world.

Your Highness's earnest and strenuous endeavours to improve the economic condition of the people by the steady encouragement of agriculture and industries have begun to bear rich fruit. The inauguration of the Land Mortgage Bank, the improvement of irrigation and the adoption of measures for the relief of the indebted agriculturists bear testimony to Your Highness's sympathy and statesmanship. By the establishment

\* Address presented by the people of Travancore on His Highness' return from Delhi, after being invested with the insignia of G. C. I. E., on the 25th of June 1936.

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of the Air Service between Trivandrum and Bombay Your Highness has brought Travancore into closer touch with the rest of the world. The Pallivasal Scheme which has been receiving Your Highness's direct and personal attention is full of promise for the industrial future of the State, and many useful schemes of industrial regeneration are being implemented. Other nation-building activities, such as education, co-operation and public health, have equally left the impact of Your Highness's reforming zeal. Your Highness's love of art and culture and Your Highness's keen desire for the development of the æsthetic taste of the people have found expression in the creation of the Chitralayam Art Gallery which has already earned the reputation of being one of the finest in India. The Sri Chitra Home is the spontaneous outcome of Your Highness's solicitude for the infirm and the destitute, while Your Highness's sympathy towards the aspirations of the depressed classes has manifested itself in the efforts that are being made to remove the evils of untouchability.

Your Highness's reign is a march of events towards the material and moral development of the people. Your Highness's desire to associate the people in increasing measure in the work of legislation and administration has resulted in the establishment of a constitution which is unique in an Indian State and

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which has elicited warm praise in virtue of its being so designed as to fit easily into the framework of the All-India Federal Constitution which will shortly be inaugurated.

In Your Highness, we are blessed with a Sovereign who has acquired knowledge and experience by his extensive travels in India and Europe and who is animated by the sole desire of utilising the advantages so gained for the lasting good of his subjects. We may be permitted to quote the words of His Excellency Lord Willingdon in reply to Your Highness's speech as President of the Princes' Farewell Banquet, "I would congratulate a young Ruler with whose State and family I have long had very close friendship and association, on the admirable way in which he has carried out what must, I am sure, have been no easy task."

We cannot conclude this address without offering our tribute of praise and gratitude to Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bai, Your Highness's illustrious mother, who is honoured throughout India for Her Highness's accomplishments and unremitting zeal in the cause of Indian Womanhood.

May the Almighty vouchsafe to Your Highness a long and happy life and a glorious reign! May He

shower His choicest blessings on the Royal House of Travancore !!

We beg to subscribe ourselves,  
May it please Your Most Gracious Highness,  
Your Highness's loyal and devoted Subjects,  
The People of Travancore.

#### 4. CIVIC ADDRESS FROM THE MADRAS CORPORATION \*

We, the Mayor, Aldermen and Conncillors of the Corporation of Madras, offer Your Highness our warmest greetings and a hearty welcome to this, our ancient city.

It is to us a matter for great gratification that during Your Highness' reign, Travancore is making rapid progress in the economic and social spheres. It has also signalised itself by a recent epoch-making Royal Proclamation throwing open the Hindu Temples in the State to Harijans, which has elicited universal admiration and in which we know that Your Highness had the rare co-operation and counsel of your distinguished and cultured mother. We offer Your Highness our warmest felicitations on your being the first Ruler of an Indian State to inaugurate this great historic reform. We are happy to observe that in

\*Civic Address presented to His Highness by the Corporation of Madras on the 17th of February 1937.

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this benevolent measure Your Highness' Dewan, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. I. E., formerly a leading personality of this House, has played no inconsiderable part.

We assure Your Highness that we take a keen interest in the progress of Your Highness' State. We appreciate Your Highness' high patriotism and zeal in promoting the welfare of Your Highness' subjects.

We wish Your Highness long life and hope that during Your Highness' reign Your Highness' State will grow from strength to strength advancing in culture and increasing in prosperity.

### 5. MR. C. P. SKRINE'S SPEECH AT THE BIRTHDAY BANQUET, 1937. \*

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to-night to try and express, however inadequately, the sentiments I and all your guests feel on the auspicious occasion of Your Highness' twenty-six birthday. Those of us who are no longer in our first youth — I do not, of course, refer to any of the ladies present — are apt to harbour somewhat mixed feelings when our birthdays come round. Amid all the joy of friendly greetings and

\* Speech made by Mr. C. P. Skrine O. B. E., I. C. S., Resident, Madras States, in proposing the toast to His Highness at the Birthday Banquet on the 3rd of November 1937.

the congratulations of our nearest and dearest, something bitter (as the old Roman poet put it) is apt to arise in the very midst of the fountain of our delight. We look down the vista of past birthdays and reflect sadly on the fleeting years. That, happily, is not, and will not for a long time be, the lot of Your Highness.

You stand, if not on the threshold — you are past that — at any rate in the mighty ante-chamber of the palace of your career. Your vista lies in front of you — colonnade and portico, hall and dome, each more splendid than the last. But I must not let my metaphors run away with me. To-day, I am told the stars in their courses stand precisely as they did when Your Highness was born a quarter of a century ago. The moon has quarters, and I like to think that the crescent moon of Your Highness' career is just about to enter its second phase.

The first was one of growth, training and development. During the last two or three years Travancore and the world have seen the first fruits of that auspicious sowing. Such important and far-reaching measures as the throwing open of the temples in Travancore to untouchables — regarding which I can safely say, without taking sides on a purely religious issue, that any efforts on behalf of the under-dog are bound to have the sympathy of every Englishman — the electoral and administrative reforms which have

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gone so far to establish in your time that political peace for which every good Ruler prays, and last but not the least, the inauguration of autonomy in higher education in the shape of the Travancore University — such acts are merely an earnest of the great developments which, I am sure, are going to mark the rule of one who has dedicated himself, as Your Highness has, to the welfare and prosperity of your people.

In the years that are to come you will, I trust, continue to enjoy the inestimable blessings of the advice and loving co-operation of Her Highness, your mother. In speaking thus I can claim to know what I am talking about, for in my small way I am in the same position as Your Highness. I too have got a very special kind of mother whose advice and influence have been factors of tremendous importance in my career.

No reference to Your Highness' rule would be complete without mention of the fact that in your Dewan you have one of the outstanding personalities of the Indian Empire. I have already to-day had the pleasure of wishing Sir "C. P." many happy returns, for I learn that he was born under the very next star to Your Highness's — a fact which has surely a certain cosmic significance. To look at him you would never think that he was one of the useless and worn-out old people whom a certain famous political party in British India has (so he tells

us) exposed upon the mountainside to die. Well, all I can say is that if Travancore is the mountainside on which he has been exposed, it is a very pleasant one, and it is likely to be a long time before such exposure seriously curtails his multifarious and beneficent activities.

To sum up, Your Highness, your mother and your Dewan are, if I may say so, a very strong combination, and the auspices are as good as could be for the second quarter of your century. I only hope that I may be here twenty-five years hence to celebrate the full moon of your and Travancore's prosperity.

# 6. ORATION BY THE UNIVERSITY ORATOR AT THE ANDHRA UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION, 1937.\*

Mr. Chancellor,

The accession of Sir Bala Rama Varma to the Throne of Travancore marks the dawn of a new era which will expand into the steady splendour of a noonday sun that will illumine not merely Travancore, but the whole of India with its life-developing light and grace. The great act of social liberation,

\*Oration delivered by the University Orator, Mr. K. Sivaramakrishna Rao, at the Andhra University Convocation while presenting His Highness to the Chancellor to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature.

breathing courage, conviction and indomitable idealism in grateful admiring recognition of which the University and you, Mr. Chancellor, have resolved to bestow the Honorary D. Litt. Degree on him, is not a temporary or local reform of limited range or perfunctory significance. By its effect, direct and indirect, this Proclamation deserves to rank amongst the great Golden Charters of Human Liberty.

His Highness is the defender of his faith and respector of everybody else's. Perhaps, the developer of his own faith would be a truer description. Young in years, yet far-reaching of vision, youthful in heart, yet sage of head—it is a rare combination of excellences that he embodies.

His liberalism is not confined to matters social, but vivifies all aspects of life in Travancore. A year after he became Maharaja, he announced the establishment of a bi-cameral legislature on a broad franchise, and in his administration, the rule of law and equality of opportunity are the two dominating principles. Old exclusions based on race and creed have been abolished; art, drama and literature have received patronage and organisation in abundant measure, and are showing a remarkable and racy development under his auspices; and he is the founder of a University. Each birthday of His Highness has become the occasion for a new reform and a fresh

development, a milestone on the road of Travancore's swift progress. And this is a reason, in addition to the primary attachment we bear him as our Prince Charming and Prince Beautiful, why, with all the power of emotion we are capable of, we wish him a long, long life and health and happiness. His deep reverence and devotion for his mother show him to be a typical Hindu, true to the best traditions and precepts of our race. Of very noble descent, and not less noble in character, princely by status, yet delighting in simple life, and ever-thoughtful of the good of the State and never self-indulgent — it is such a ruler, His Highness Sir Bala Rama Varma of Travancore, one of the finest embodiments of India's hopes and aspirations, that I present to Your Excellency for receiving the Honorary D. Litt. Degree at your hands. May he abundantly be blessed and may the great things he has achieved so far be but an introduction to a great classic of progress and service which, we pray and hope, he will write with his life and conduct and achievements!

THE END

